68 PAGES
NO ADS FROM COVER TO COVER!
DC
WONDER WOMAN ★ FLASH ★ DEADMAN
5 ALL-NEW SUPER-STAR FEATURES
AQUAMAN ★ THE JUSTICE SOCIETY
APRIL, 1979
$1.00
NO. 462
ADVENTURE COMICS
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
FEATURING IN THIS ISSUE: THE JUSTICE SOCIETY AND THE PULSE-POUNDING--
DEATH OF BATMAN!

DATELINE: ADVENTURE COMICS

With this issue, ther's a new guiding hand behind the editorial "we" of ADVENTURE COMICS, but the new ADVENTURE tradition will go on, striving only to reach even higher heights. Ye editor is Ross Andru, newly returned to DC's offices after a several year sojurn drawing a familiar wall-crawling character across the street at Marvel. We've also taken over the editorial chores on THE FLASH and WONDER WOMAN solo magazines, so hopefully you'll be seeing better character continuity and tighter interweaving of plots on those two features. And making the editorial "we" even more appropriate than usual, this issue Joe Orlando pitched in to edit the Justice Society story and outgoing editor Paul Levitz has stayed on to finish the Deadman series he began with Len Wein.

If we've had an immediate impact on this magazine it's in the artistic changes that begin this issue, as Don Heck takes over the pencilling chores on *The Flash* and Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez on *Deadman*, with both Irv Novick and Jim Aparo moving over to the Batman group of magazines down the hall. It's our intention to make ADVENTURE the most dynamic Dollar Comic DC produces, and we anxiously await your reactions to tell us if we're on track.

Ross

—Ross Andru, Editor

featuring:

THE JUSTICE SOCIETY
"ONLY LEGENDS LIVE FOREVER"
How can a MAN—even a SUPERHERO, find the COURAGE to DIE for his FRIENDS?
Pg. 3

THE FLASH
Battling the ESSENCE of EVIL ITSELF in "THE SHE-DEMON ON THE ASTRAL PLANE."
Pg. 19

DEADMAN
"THE SINS OF THE FATHERS"
BOSTON BRAND hopes to escape the LIMBO of DEATH through a MACHINE that creates LIFE!!
Pg.31

WONDER WOMAN
DARK MAGIC and MYSTERY await the AMAZON in—"THE VOYAGE OF THE SORCERERS LOST."
Pg. 43

AQUAMAN
The INHABITANTS of ATLANTIS BOILED ALIVE? "EXECUTIVE ACTION!"
Pg. 55

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EARTH-TWO -- A WORLD MUCH LIKE OUR OWN, YET SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT. A WORLD WHERE YOUNG AND OLD HEROES HAVE JOINED FORCES TO BATTLE EVIL AS THE...
JUSTICE SOCIETY
CONCLUDING THE JSA'S MOST EPIC ADVENTURE!
ONLY LEGENDS LIVE FOREVER!
PAUL LEVITZ, • WRITER •
JOE STATON, • ARTIST •
BEN ODA, • LETTERER •
ADRIENNE ROY, • COLORIST •
JOE ORLANDO, • GUEST EDITOR •
STATON & GIORDANO
1

PROLOGUE
WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE...
IT BEGAN A SHORT HOUR AGO, WITH A MAN CLIMBING THE TRADE TOWER IN DOWNTOWN GOTHAM CITY.
IT GOT STRANGER WHEN THE LONE CLIMBER ANNOUNCED WHY HE DEFIED DEATH AND GRAVITY.
I WANT COMMISSIONER WAYNE--AND I WANT HIM NOW!
OR I'LL LEVEL EVERY BUILDING IN THE BLASTED CITY!
IT BECAME DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE WHEN THE MADMAN DEMONSTRATED THAT HE HAD THE POWER TO FULFILL HIS THREAT.
FWOOSH
BUT THE DIFFICULT BECAME IMPOSSIBLE WHEN EVEN THE JSA FELL BEFORE HIS POWER!
THEN POLICE COMMISSIONER BRUCE WAYNE ARRIVED TO HEAR THE THREAT IN PERSON--
2

--AND TO LEARN THE ASTOUNDING REASON FOR BILL JENSEN'S BURNING HATRED!
YOU OWE ME YOUR LIFE--BECAUSE YOU DESTROYED MINE!
YOU FRAMED ME, WAYNE-- JUST TO MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF!

HE SAID HE WAS SENT TO PRISON FOR MURDER --SO WAYNE COULD BE NAMED POLICE COMMISSIONER IN RECOGNITION FOR HIS DETECTIVE WORK.
THEN, ONE MORNING, HE AWOKE WITH THE POWER--

--THE POWER HE INTENDED TO USE TO KILL WAYNE!

POWER SUFFICIENT TO DESTROY FATE'S MYSTIC SHIELDS--BUT SO FAR, INSUFFICIENT TO GET BILL JENSEN WHAT HE REALLY WANTED...
WHERE'S WAYNE?
HE'S GONE? YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS TRICKERY, GOTHAM-- YOU'LL PAY!
OUR STORY RESUMES ON THE NEXT PAGE FOLLOWING!

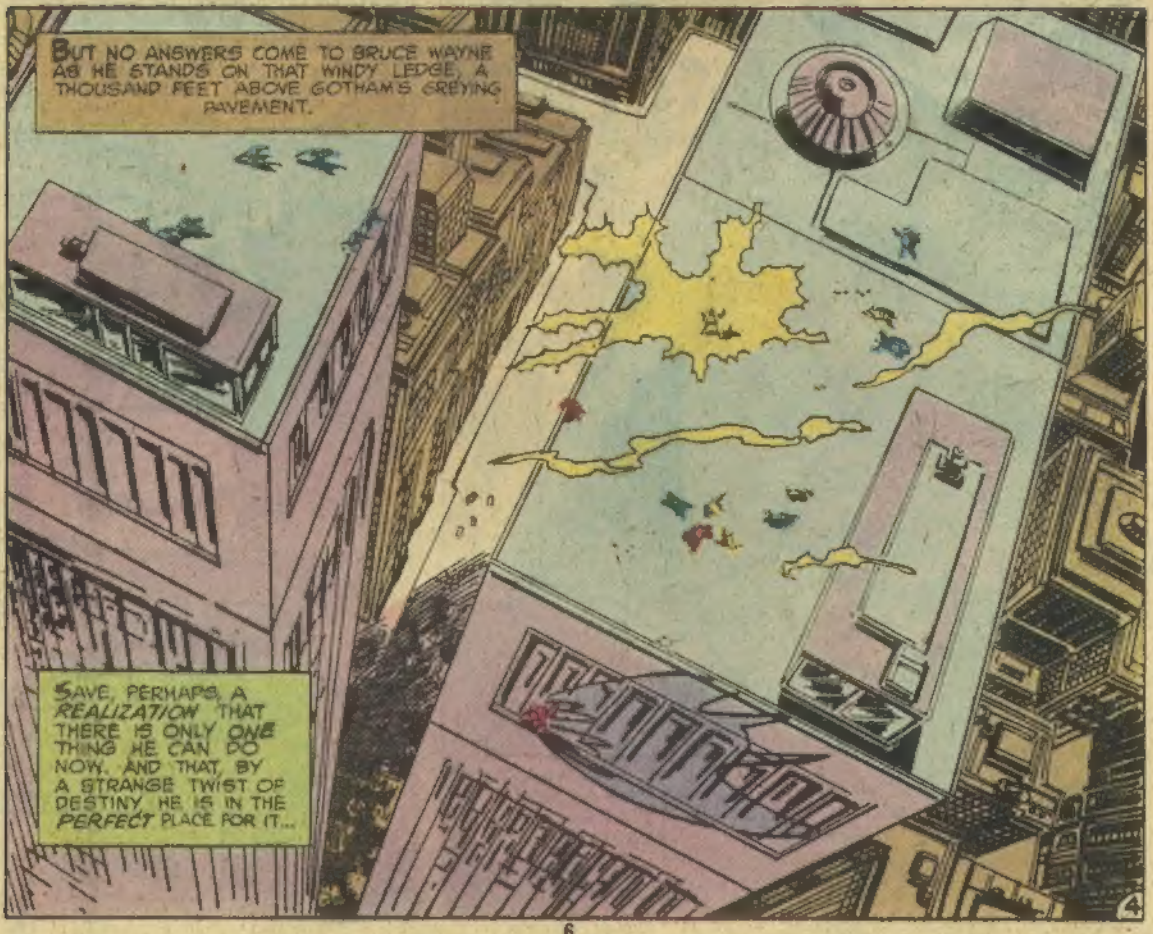
CHAPTER 3

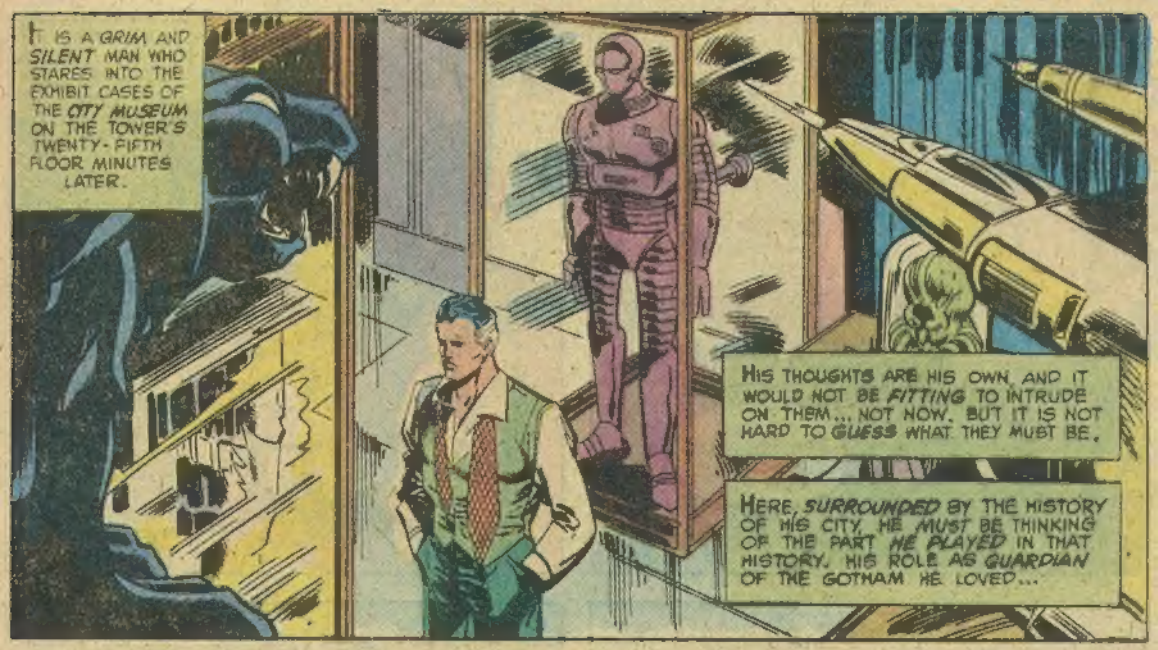
IN THE SECONDS BEFORE BILL JENSEN'S ENERGY BOLT *BURST* THROUGH DOCTOR FATE'S SHIELD A *DECISION* WAS REACHED -- BRUCE WAYNE *LEAPED* FROM THE TOWER ROOF TO A *LEDGE* BELOW -- AND...

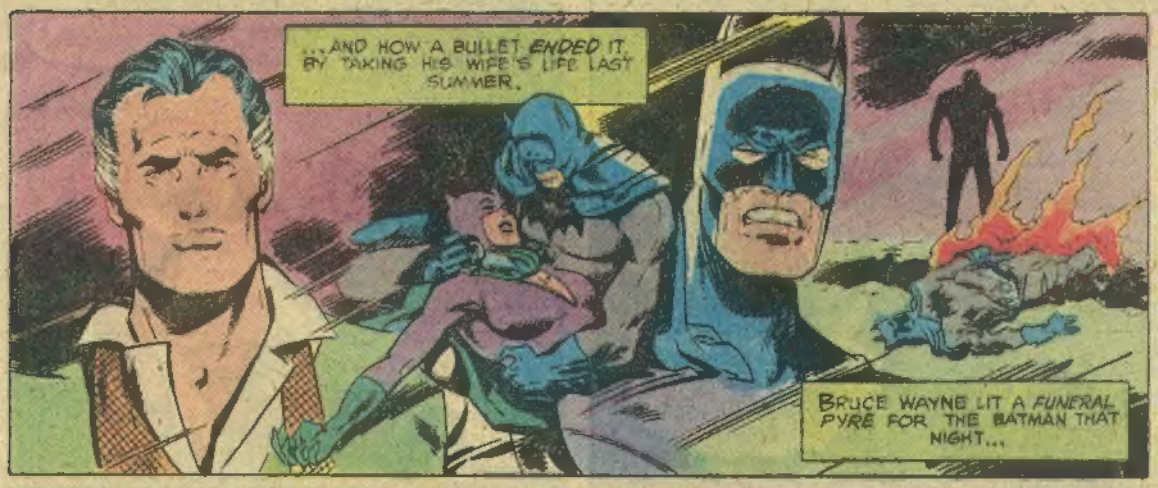
THE LEGEND LIVES AGAIN!

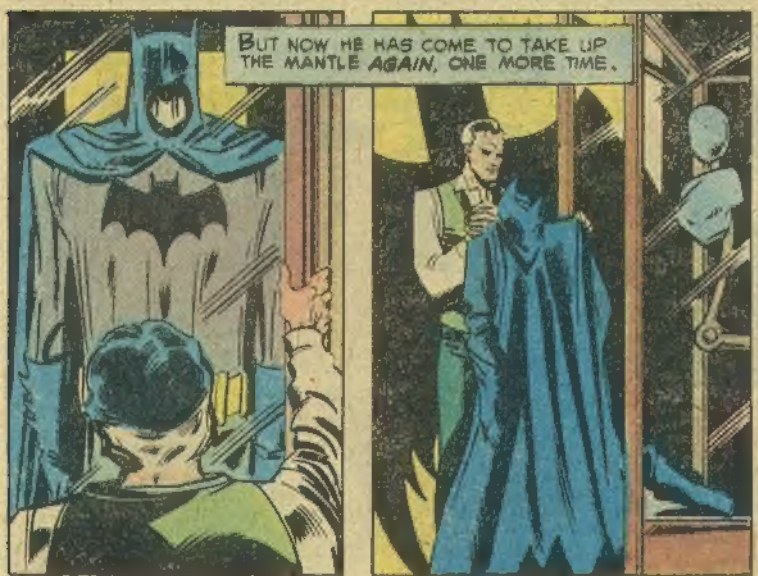
CAN'T IMAGINE WHY JENSEN IS SAYING I *FRAMED* HIM... THE EVIDENCE WAS AIRTIGHT!
IN THIRTY YEARS OF CRIMINOLOGY I NEVER SAW A MORE *OPEN AND SHUT CASE.*

OR A MORE *MYSTERIOUS SITUATION.*
JENSEN WAS JUST AN *ORDINARY* MAN WHO KILLED HIS *BUSINESS PARTNER* -- HE NEVER HAD THIS KIND OF *POWER.*


BUT NO ANSWERS COME TO BRUCE WAYNE AS HE STANDS ON THAT WINDY LEDGE, A THOUSAND FEET ABOVE GOTHAM'S GREYING PAVEMENT.
SAVE, PERHAPS, A *REALIZATION* THAT THERE IS ONLY *ONE* THING HE CAN DO NOW. AND THAT, BY A STRANGE TWIST OF DESTINY, HE IS IN THE *PERFECT* PLACE FOR IT...


IT IS A GRIM AND SILENT MAN WHO STARES INTO THE EXHIBIT CASES OF THE CITY MUSEUM ON THE TOWER'S TWENTY-FIFTH FLOOR MINUTES LATER.
HIS THOUGHTS ARE HIS OWN, AND IT WOULD NOT BE FITTING TO INTRUDE ON THEM... NOT NOW. BUT IT IS NOT HARD TO GUESS WHAT THEY MUST BE.
HERE, SURROUNDED BY THE HISTORY OF HIS CITY, HE MUST BE THINKING OF THE PART HE PLAYED IN THAT HISTORY. HIS ROLE AS GUARDIAN OF THE GOTHAM HE LOVED...





AND SOMEHOW HIS EVERY GESTURE SHOWS THAT HE KNOWS THAT THIS TRULY WILL BE THE LAST TIME...

5

AND ATOP THE TOWER...
STOP HIDING WAYNE, YOU FOOLS!
DO YOU REALIZE I CAN DESTROY YOU ALL?
I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU-- I ONLY WANT JUSTICE!
A LIFE FOR A LIFE-- WAYNE'S FOR MINE-- THE LIFE HE RUINED!
YOU KNOW WE CAN'T GIVE YOU THE COMMISSIONER, JENSEN-- BE REASONABLE!
GIVE US BACK THE JSA AND I PROMISE THE D.A. WILL RE-OPEN YOUR CASE!
YOU WANT THE JSA? TAKE THEM!
IF YOU CAN!
IF NOT--ONE WILL PLUNGE TO DEATH EVERY MINUTE--
--UNTIL I HAVE WAYNE!
AS HE HURTLES TOWARDS THE GROUND THE SUDDEN RUSH OF AIR SHOCKS THE FLASH AWAKE!
OH NO!
6

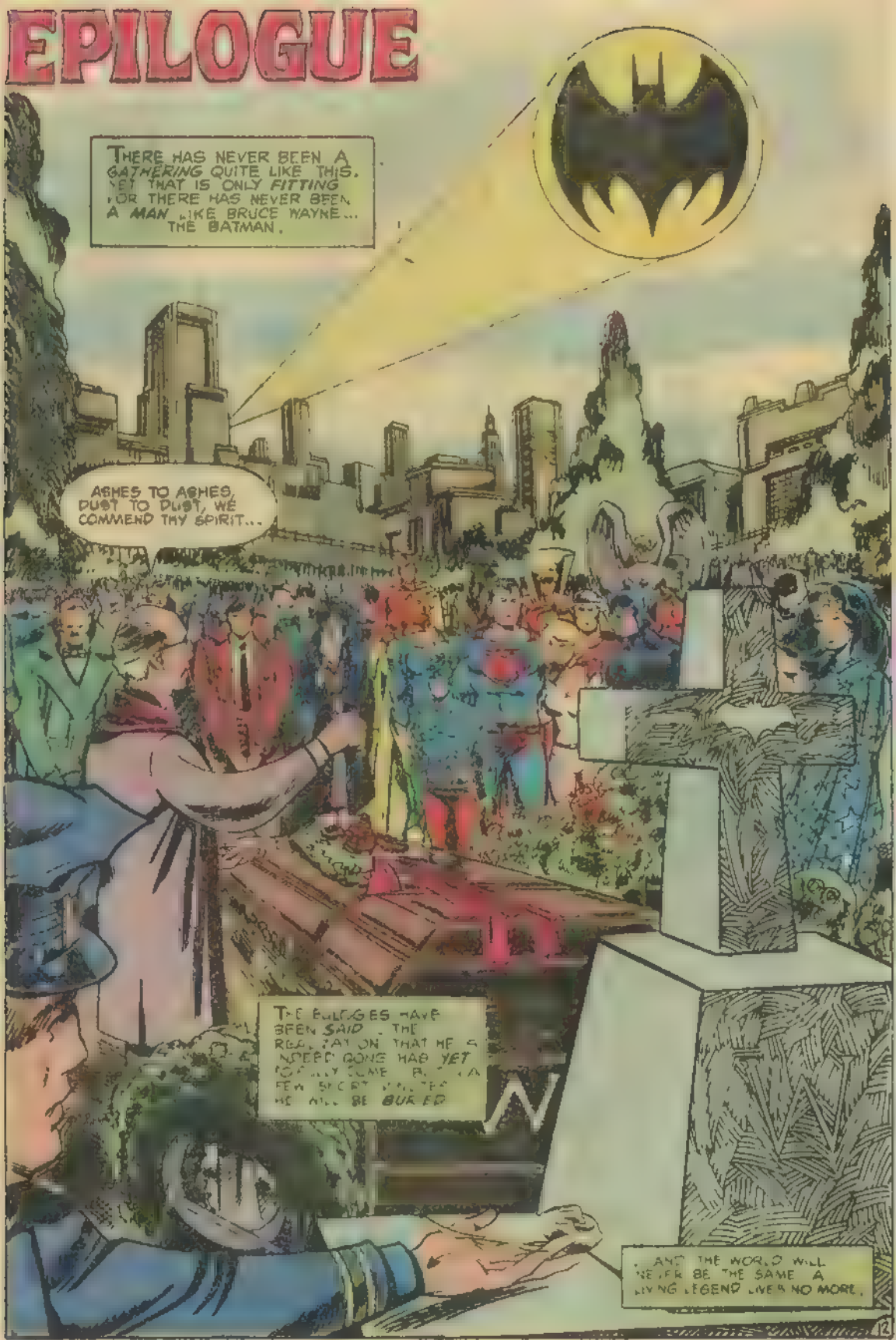
RELAX, OLD FRIEND. I'VE GOT YOU!
SWOOSH
WHAT I HAVE TO.
HMPH. TALKING TO MYSELF-- FLASH'S PASSED OUT AGAIN!
BATMAN?! WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE-- IN COSTUME?
DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.
I HAVE TO DO THIS MYSELF, ANYWAY.
BATMAN??.. HERE??
3-BUT YOU DISAPPEARED MONTHS AGO!
I'M HERE NOW, JENSEN.
HERE FOR YOU.
NO, BATMAN-- YOU'RE HERE TO BE MY TOOL!
YOU WILL BRING ME BRUCE WAYNE!
7

BECAUSE YOU WON'T LET GOTHAM DIE!
--AND BRINGING ME WAYNE IS THE ONLY WAY TO STOP ME!
AYEEE!!!
FFZZSSTT
AYEEE!!
HELP!
MY LORD! HE SHEARED THE TOP OF THE OTHER TOWER RIGHT OFF WITH A WAVE OF HIS HAND!
WHERE IN HEAVEN OR HELL'S NAME DID HE GET THAT KIND OF POWER?
JENSEN! STOP!
KILLING INNOCENT PEOPLE WON'T HELP YOU CLEAR YOURSELF!
I DON'T WANT TO BE CLEARED, BATMAN!
I ONLY WANT WAYNE DEAD!
KRAKL
--AND YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN!
EVEN AS BATMAN STRUGGLES TO MAINTAIN HIS GRIP ON THE GRANITE TOWER, THE EXPLOSION REVERBERATES...
8

ECHOING UP TO THE ROOFTOPS AND BEYOND WAKES THE JSAERS
ARISE MY FRIENDS!
JNHH
AHHH
I KNOW NOT WHY JENSEN HAS TURNED FROM US TO THE ROOF'S EDGE BUT THIS IS SURELY OUR CHANCE!
BEFORE HE CAN FOCUS HIS POWER--
STRIKE!
HUNH? WHAT'S THAT NOISE--
THE JSA!
FOOLS! THE POWER WILL PROTECT ME!
YOU CAN DO NOTHING AGAINST IT!
YOUR POWER IS EVIL JENSEN--AND THEREFORE DOOMED TO FAIL YOU!
REALLY FATE?
THEN EXPLAIN WHY I SCATTERS YOU LIKE THE FLEAS YOU ARE--
--AND WHY EVEN YOUR MIGHTIEST MAGIC DOESN'T AFFECT ME!
EXPLAIN THAT FATE.
9

--IF YOU SURVIVE!
THE GOLDEN CASCADE OF ENERGY SEEMS ENDLESSLY FLOWING, LIKE A RAGING RIVER AT SPRING FLOOD--
--AND THOUGH IN THEORY GREEN LANTERN'S EMERALD RING CAN CONTROL ANYTHING BUT WOOD IT IS LIMITED BY HIS WILL, AND ALAN SCOTT IS STILL A MAN--
--WHILE BILL JENSEN SEEMS TRANSFORMED INTO SOMETHING MORE
SOMETHING AGAINST WHICH THERE IS NO DEFENSE.
YOU CAN STOP LAUGHING JENSEN. YOU'RE THROUGH
NOT TILL YOU BRING ME WAYNE, BATMAN NOT TILL I KILL HIM!
THERE IS NO REPLY FROM THE MAN IN THE MASK.. PERHAPS BECAUSE THE IRONY OVERWHELMS HIM OR PERHAPS BECAUSE HE SEES HIS FALLEN COMRADES AND KNOWS WHAT HE MUST DO
10

INCH BY INCH THE BATMAN STRUGGLES FORWARD..
HIS SKIN BURNING AWAY WITH EACH STEP HE TAKES AS THE FIERY FORCES SEAR HIM
BUT THOUGH HE IS NOT AS YOUNG AS HE ONCE WAS, AS STRONG AS HE ONCE WAS HE IS STILL AS DETERMINED.
HE IS STILL THE LEGENDARY GUARDIAN OF GOTHAM. AND HE WILL NOT BE STOPPED, EVEN BY THAT WHICH WOULD KILL ANOTHER MAN.
FINALLY THROUGH HATE-GLAZED EYES JENSEN SEES, THROUGH THE SHARDS OF THE BURNING MASK... SEES WHO HIS NEMESIS TRULY IS...
WAYNE!
THEN IN ONE SOUL-SHATTERING SECOND JENSEN'S HATE CONSUMES HIM WITH A FIRE NOT SEEN ON THIS EARTH SINCE CREATION.
AND THE BATMAN DIES WITH HIM!
OH MY GOD-- NOOOOOO!


EPILOGUE
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A GATHERING QUITE LIKE THIS. YET THAT IS ONLY FITTING FOR THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A MAN LIKE BRUCE WAYNE... THE BATMAN.
ASHES TO ASHES, DUST TO DUST, WE COMMEND THY SPIRIT...
AND THE WORLD WILL NEVER BE THE SAME A LIVING LEGEND LIVES NO MORE.

HIS DAUGHTER WEEPS UNCONTROLLABLY... NOW HAVING LOST BOTH HER PARENTS & THE SPACE OF A SINGLE YEAR
THE BOY HE TOOK IN AS A CHILD STANDS STRAIGHT AND TALL A SINGLE TEAR STAINING HIS CHEEK
AND FATE STANDS IMMUTABLE WITHIN HIS MASK... UNDERSTANDING DEATH IN A WAY NO MORTAL CAN.
CHILDHOOD'S END... SLEEVE TO FAR AWAY.
MOURNING THE MAN WHO WAS A SECOND FATHER AND MORE.
YET GRIEVING ALL THE SAME
IT'S FITTING THAT BRUCE WAYNE BE BURIED HERE, NEAR THE GRAVES OF HIS PARENTS... THE PARENTS WHOSE MURDER HE SPENT HIS LIFE AVENGING.
THOMAS WAYNE MD
NOW HE CAN JOIN THEM... IN PEACE.
19

...E ENA?
WHY, DICK... WH DO HE HAVE TO CHOKE...
EASY, GIRL. YOU KNOW WHY.
HE HAD TO WE NEEDED HIM AND GOTHAM NEEDED HIM.
BRUCE NEVER FAILED US NEVER!
AND I WON'T FA... HIM, EITHER!
BRUCE WAYNE MAY HAVE GIVEN HIS LIFE FOR GOTHAM--
-BUT THE BATMAN WILL LIVE ON!
NO! DICK-- YOU CAN'T!
HUNH ?
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, HELENA YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO BE THE BATMAN?
14

NO OF COURSE NOT
THEN WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THERE WAS ONLY ONE MAN WHO COULD BE THE BATMAN DICK AND MY FATHER IS DEAD
WE CAN CARRY ON HIS WORK -- YOU AS ROBIN, ME AS THE HUNTRESS --
-- BUT THE BATMAN IS DEAD ONLY LEGENDS LIVE FOREVER.. NOT THE MEN WHO MAKE THEM.
WHILE AT JSA HEADQUARTERS
THEY HAVE COME TO TERMS WITH THEIR DESTINY QUICKLY.
THEY'RE GOOD PEOPLE FATE STRONG PEOPLE
YES, BUT SOON THEY WILL THINK CLEARLY OF YESTERDAY'S EVENTS.
15
AND BY THEN WE MUST KNOW THE ANSWER TO THE UNANSWERABLE --
-- WHERE DID BILL JENSEN GET THE POWER TO STOP US AND TO SLAY THE BATMAN?
NEXT ISSUE:
* THE ANSWER -- ON...
"THE NIGHT OF THE SOUL THIEF!"
BE THERE -- FEBRUARY 8TH!
FEBRUARY 8TH!

EXTRA DAILY PLANET™ EXTRA

VOLUME 78 ISSUE 49 WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 1978 BOB ROZAKIS EDITOR ANTHONY TOLLIN PRODUCTION

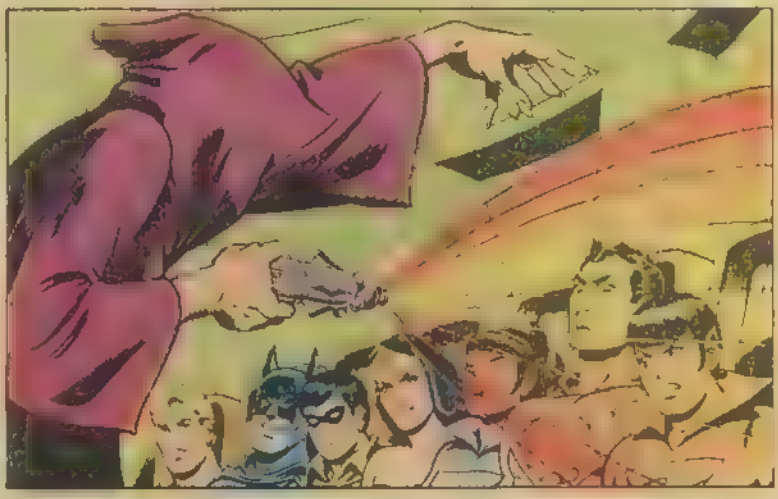
SUPER FRIENDS FACE DEATH IN TIME TRAP

HEROES SET OUT ON DESPERATE MISSION TO SAVE HISTORY!

(In the Timestream)—The *Time Trapper* has fled into the past to alter the course of history—and only the *Super Friends* can stop him. Or can they?

See *Superman* and *Aquaman* struggle to save Atlantis from sinking into the ocean—50,000 years before its time! Can *Wonder Woman* and *Robin* thwart the *Time Trapper*'s scheme to prevent Columbus from discovering America? And how will the death of a thirteen-year-old boy in 1960 change the entire course of the 20th Century?

But even if the *Super Friends* succeed in their missions, they still face death at the hands of the *Time Trapper* when they return to the present! Don't miss "Manhunt In Time" by E. Nelson Bridwell, Kurt Schaffenberger and Bob Smith when *SUPER FRIENDS* #18 goes on sale the week of December 25th



UNKNOWN SOLDIER INFILTRATES NAZI FORTRESS!

(France, WW II)—In ancient mythology, Valhalla was the great hall where warriors who died in battle were received by the gods

But in World War II, the Nazis have twisted the idea of Valhalla to their own sinister ends! The *Unknown Soldier* must penetrate the Nazis' Valhalla stronghold and put a stop to their treacherous scheme—or die trying!

Read "Welcome to Valhalla" by Bob Haney, Dick Ayers and in *UNKNOWN SOLDIER* #225

Also in this issue, the story of a Japanese fighter pilot who gunned down his foes in cold blood in "At the Mercy of Tigers" by Steve Utley, Dick Ayers and Romeo Tanghal.

For thrilling World War II intrigue and battle action, be sure to get your copy of *UNKNOWN SOLDIER* #225, on sale the week of December 25th

DIRECT CURRENTS

ON SALE WEEK OF DECEMBER 25th

ACTION COMICS #493—Are they flying saucers . . . or something more deadly flying above the city? Find out as *Superman* solves "The Metropolis-UFO Connection" by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Frank Chiaramonte

GREEN LANTERN #114—A new villain makes his debut in "The Crimes of the Crumbler" by Denny O'Neil, Alex Saviuk and Dave Hunt

WARLORD #19—Once again, Mike Grell sends Travis Morgan to battle the deadly menace of monthly deadlines!

WONDER WOMAN #253—Who is the mysterious woman who has the "Spirit of Silver . . . Soul of Gold"? Find out in this Jack C. Harris/Jose Delbo/Frank Chiaramonte collaboration

AND ON SALE RIGHT NOW

ADVENTURE COMICS #462 / *BATMAN* #309 / *DC COMICS PRESENTS* #7 / (*Superman* & *Red Tornado*) / *THE FLASH* #271 / *GHOSTS* #74 / *JONAH HEX* #22 / *JUSTICE LEAGUE* #164 / *MEN OF WAR* #14 / *SUPERMAN FAMILY* #194 / *UNEXPECTED* #190 / *WEIRD WAR TALES* #73

ASK THE ANSWER MAN

Q Is *Firestorm* going to join the *JLA*, as mentioned in *FIRESTORM* #2? —Alex Casti *A* Not in the near future

Q Who were the first *JLA* members? Glen Simone *A* *Superman, Batman, The Flash, Green Lantern, Wonder Woman, Aquaman* and the *Martian Manhunter*

Q Is there a chance for a *Swamp Thing* revival?—John Calhoun. *A*: The marshland monster returns with *Superman* in *DC COMICS PRESENTS* #8

Q What's happened to *Chemical King* and *Matter-Eater Lad*?—Billy Hartwell *A* Nothing—they still pop up in Legion adventures from time to time

Q Where did *Star Sapphire* first appear? —Joel Horn *A* Carol Ferris became the bejeweled baddie in *GREEN LANTERN* #16

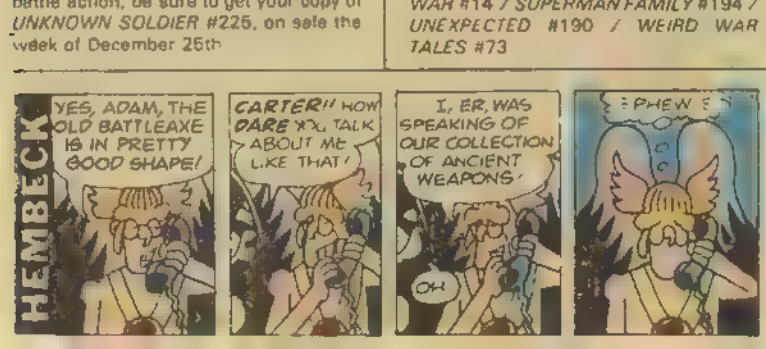
Q Will *Robin* ever have his own magazine?—Amy Dunbar *A* Probably not, but he's got his own feature in every issue of *DETECTIVE COMICS*

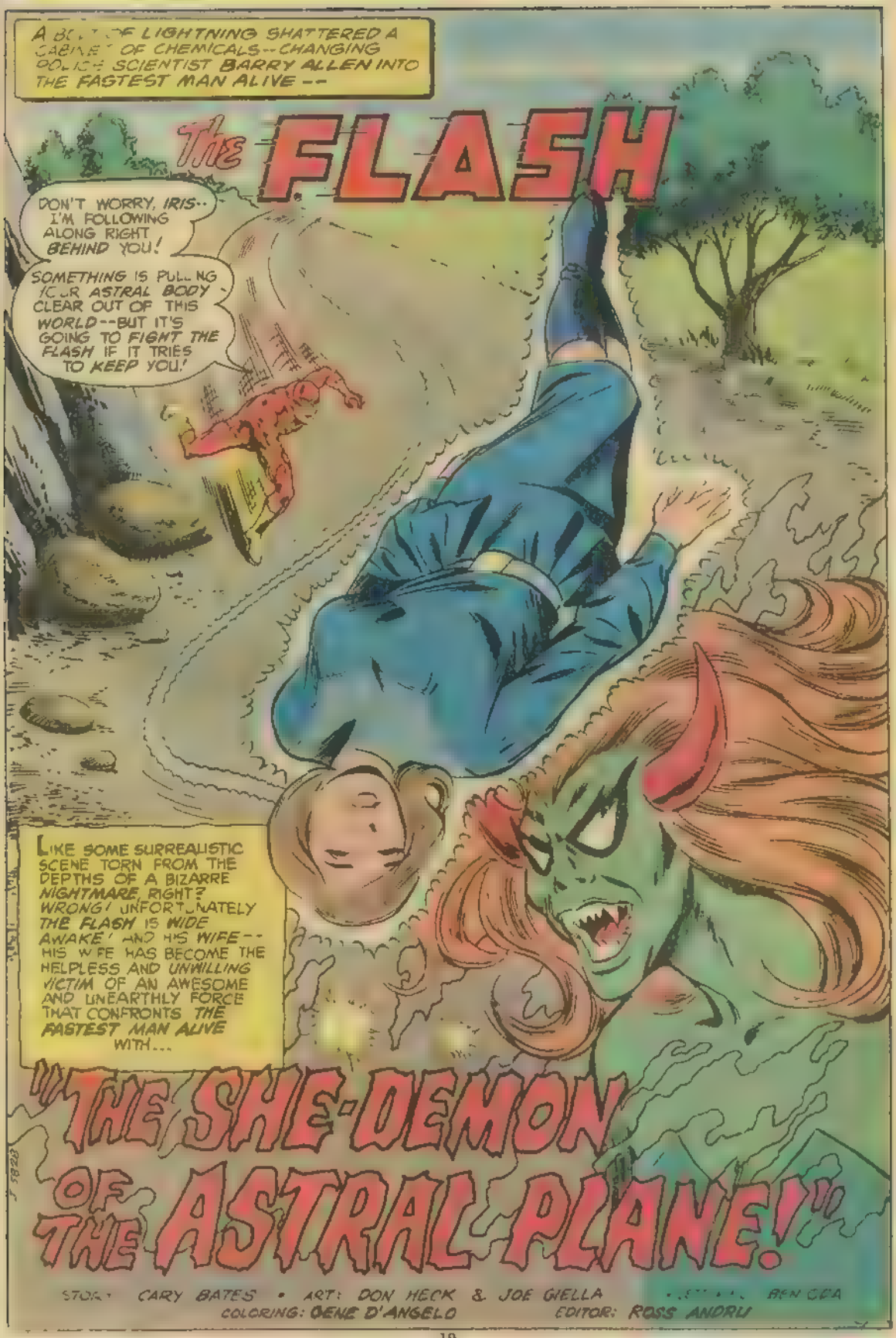
Q What is Earth-B?—Michael O'Connell *A* Earth-B is a world where all the stories which don't fit into our regular continuity take place

Q Where can I find the origin of the *Justice Society*?—Michael Brown *A* In *DC SPECIAL* #29

Q Do you think Adam (*Batman*) West, Burt (*Robin*) Ward, Lynda (*Wonder Woman*) Carter, Christopher (*Superman*) Reeve and Nick (*Aquaman*) Nolte will ever join forces for a *Super Friends* movie?—Aaron Taylor *A* We doubt it, but when did Nick Nolte ever play the King of the Sea?

Q Any plans to publish *SANDMAN* #7 or *DINGBATS* #'s 2 and 3?—Robin Snyder *A* Not in the near future, though the *Sandman* issue would've appeared in *KAMANDI* if that title hadn't been discontinued


HEMBECK
YES, ADAM, THE OLD BATTLEAXE IS IN PRETTY GOOD SHAPE!
CARTER!! HOW DARE YOU TALK ABOUT ME LIKE THAT!
I, ER, WAS SPEAKING OF OUR COLLECTION OF ANCIENT WEAPONS!
OH!
PHEW!


A BOLT OF LIGHTNING SHATTERED A CABINET OF CHEMICALS--CHANGING POLICE SCIENTIST BARRY ALLEN INTO THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE --
THE FLASH
DON'T WORRY, IRIS-- I'M FOLLOWING ALONG RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
SOMETHING IS PULLING YOUR ASTRAL BODY CLEAR OUT OF THIS WORLD--BUT IT'S GOING TO FIGHT THE FLASH IF IT TRIES TO KEEP YOU!
LIKE SOME SURREALISTIC SCENE TORN FROM THE DEPTHS OF A BIZARRE NIGHTMARE, RIGHT? WRONG! UNFORTUNATELY THE FLASH IS WIDE AWAKE! AND HIS WIFE-- HIS WIFE HAS BECOME THE HELPLESS AND UNWILLING VICTIM OF AN AWESOME AND UNEARTHLY FORCE THAT CONFRONTS THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE WITH...
"THE SHE-DEMON OF THE ASTRAL PLANE!"
STORY: CARY BATES • ART: DON HECK & JOE GIELLA • LETTERS: BEN ODA
COLORING: GENE D'ANGELO EDITOR: ROSS ANDRU

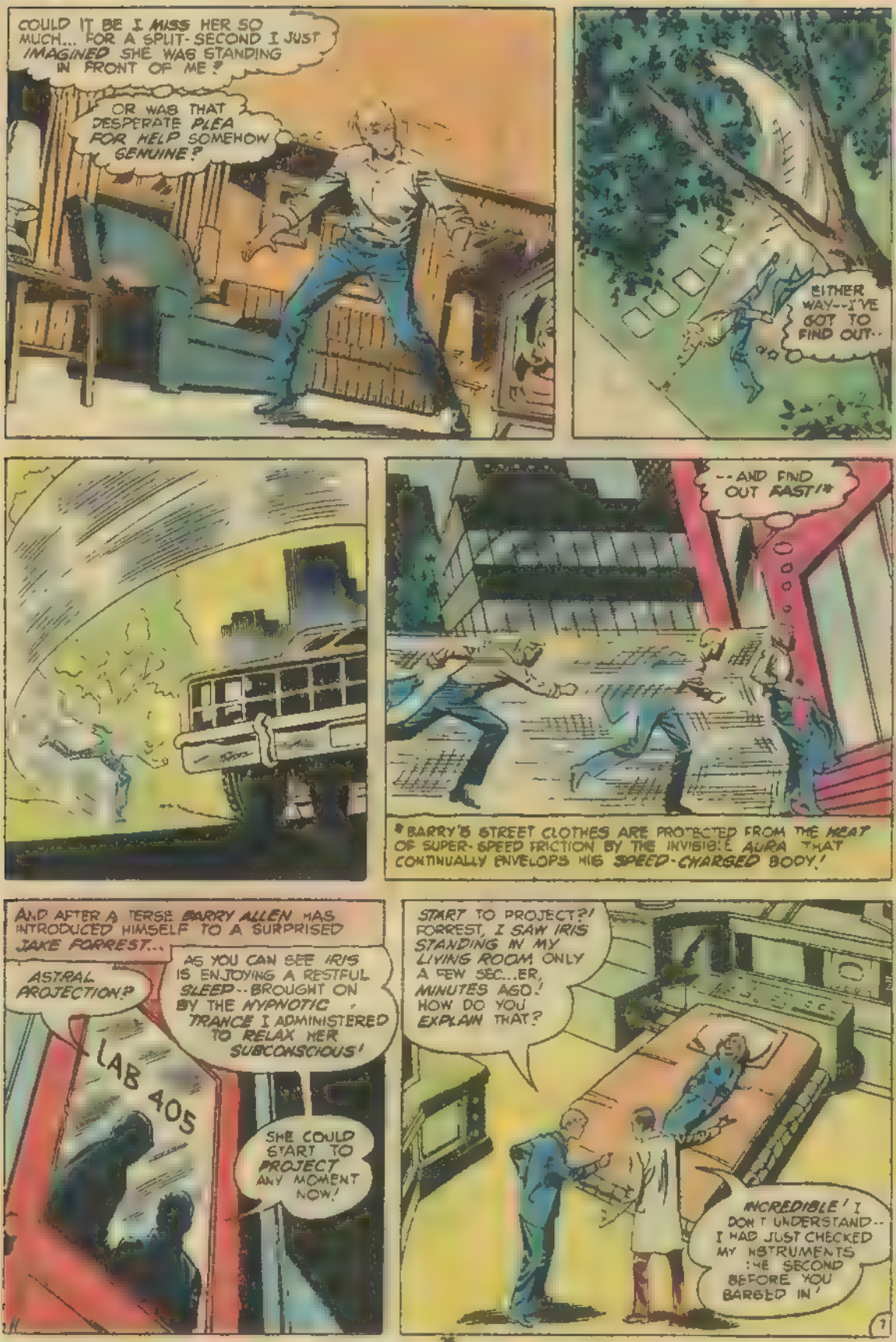
THE PICTURE NEWS BUILDING DOWNTOWN CENTRAL CITY..
AND YOU'RE RIGHT DOWNSTAIRS IN THE LOBBY? MY, THIS IS A PLEASANT SURPRISE!
IRIS ALLEN PART TIME REPORTER AND FULL TIME WIFE OF POLICE SCIENTIST BARRY ALLEN..
WELL... IT IS GETTING AWFULLY CLOSE TO QUITTING TIME! I SUPPOSE MY CITY EDITOR WOULDN'T MIND IF I SLIPPED OUT A FEW MINUTES EARLY!
THE LOBBY AND THE AFOREMENTIONED BARRY ALLEN..
IRIS AND I HAVE BEEN HAVING MORE THAN OUR SHARE OF PROBLEMS LATELY*... AND I'M CONVINCED IT'S MY FAULT WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SPEND MUCH TIME TOGETHER THESE DAYS!
MIDDLE EAST
*AS READERS OF FLASH'S OWN MAGAZINE ARE NO DOUBT ALREADY AWARE
COMING HERE TO MEET HER -- THEN AN INTIMATE DINNER AT OUR FAVORITE RESTAURANT MIGHT JUST BE THE START OF --
WHOA!
IRIS SEEMS TO BE ON HER WAY OUT A LITTLE EARLY TODAY! SHE HASN'T SEEN ME YET.
BUT BEFORE THE YOUNG SCIENTIST CAN CALL OUT TO HIS WIFE..
GOOD GOD! I DON'T BELIEVE WHAT I'M SEEING!
SHE'S RUNNING OVER TO ANOTHER MAN!!

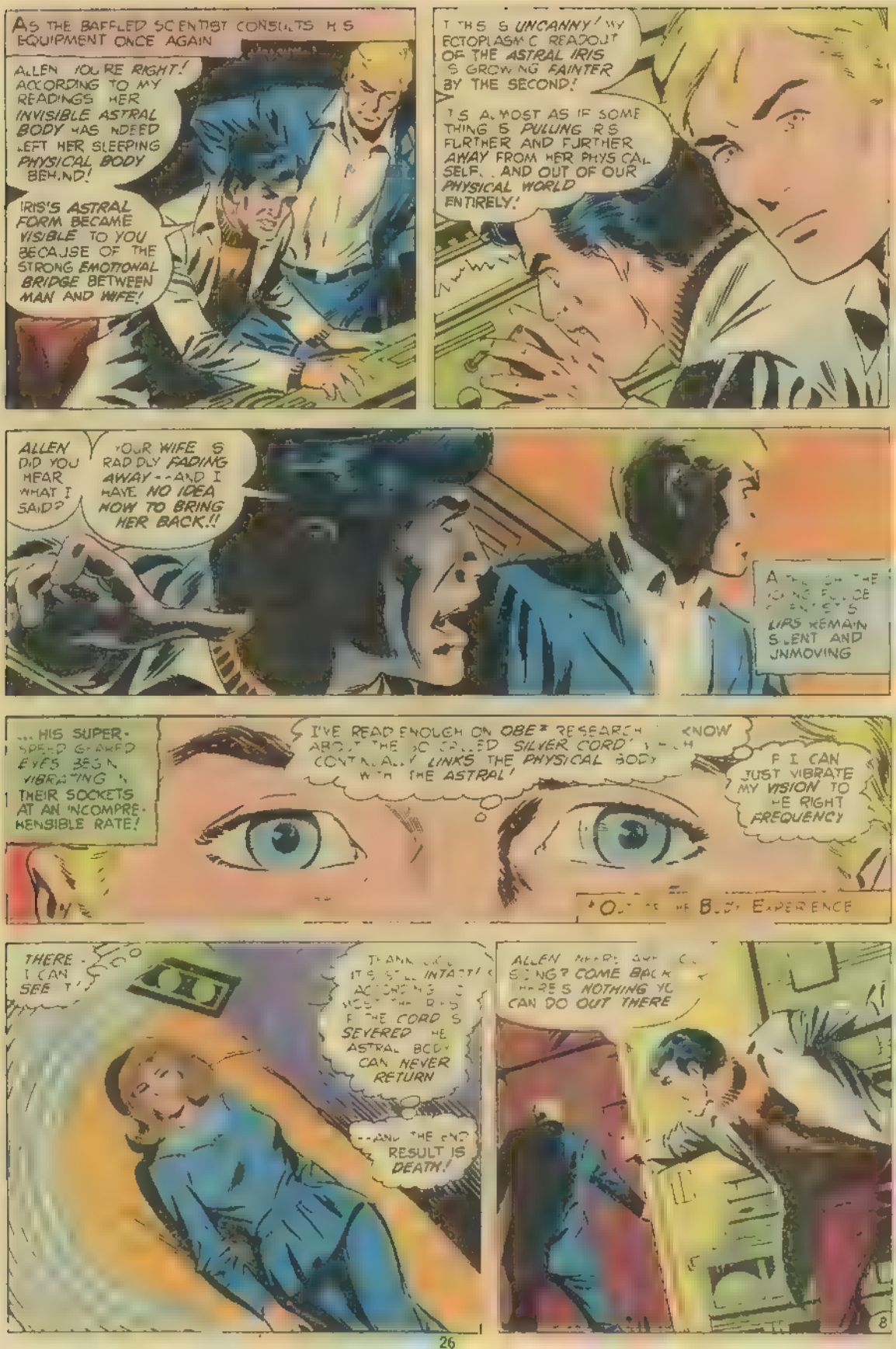
CHOKE IS THIS HOW IRIS HAS BEEN FILLING IN ALL THOSE LONELY HOURS WHEN I'M AWAY ON THE JOB!
HAVE I TURNED HER OFF BECAUSE I'VE GIVEN HER SO LITTLE ATTENTION LATELY?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS HAPPENING TO ME!! I'VE GOT TO FOLLOW THEM...
MEN
I HAVE TO KNOW!
BY THE WAY--ASIDE FROM HIS CONFLICTING DUTIES AS A FAITHFUL HUSBAND AND A DILIGENT POLICE SCIENTIST..
...NOW AND THEN BARRY ALLEN FINDS TIME TO EJECT A COMPRESSED SCARLET UNIFORM AND SUIT-UP AS THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE!
NO ONE ELSE HERE IN THE MEN'S ROOM AT THE MOMENT--
:-BUT ANOTHER TENTH OF A SECOND--
--OF PRIVACY--
-S ALL I NEED!
AND THE FLASH IS OFF AND RUNNING..
FAR TOO SWIFTLY FOR THE HUMAN EYE TO PERCEIVE!
MEN
..SO WHEN THIS OLD FAMILIAR VOICE ON THE PHONE SAYS 'AM I SPEAKING TO IRIS WEST,' I KNEW IT HAD TO BE SOMEONE WHO'S BEEN OUT-OF-TOUCH!
SO YOU FINALLY MARRIED THAT SCIENTIST-BOYFRIEND YOU USED TO MENTION IN YOUR LETTERS! CONGRATULATIONS!

BUT DON'T EXPECT ME TO SAY THE BEST MAN WON! IF YOU HAD LISTENED TO ME IN COLLEGE, YOU MIGHT BE MRS. JAKE FORREST NOW!
HMMM! SOMEHOW, JAKE, I DON'T REMEMBER THE WORD MARRIAGE BEING PART OF YOUR VOCABULARY BACK IN THOSE DAYS!
YOU'RE RIGHT, NO SENSE DWELLING ON THE PAST! LET'S TALK ABOUT THE PRESENT!
GUESS WHO GOT A RESEARCH GRANT TO SET UP AN EXPERIMENTAL PARA PSYCHOLOGY PROGRAM RIGHT HERE AT CENTRAL CITY U?
JAKE, THAT'S WONDERFUL! YOU GOT YOUR PH D?
THREE YEARS AGO. THE UNIVERSITY IS ONLY A FEW BLOCKS FROM HERE-- HOW ABOUT COMING ALONG SO I CAN SHOW OFF MY NEW LAB?
WHEW! AT LEAST THINGS AREN'T AS DISASTROUS AS THEY SEEMED A FEW MINUTES AGO.
BUT I STILL DON'T LIKE THIS FORREST CHARACTER! HIS TYPE JUST CAN'T BE TRUSTED WITH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN MARRIED OR OTHERWISE!
MON WEST, WHAT DO YOU SAY? OR DOESN'T THAT HUSBAND OF YOURS TRUST YOU WITH OTHER MEN?
LET'S LEAVE BARRY OUT OF THIS! BESIDES, I'M SURE HE'LL BE WORKING LATE TONIGHT IN HIS OWN LAB AS USUAL!
LEAD ON DR FORREST!
IRIS ARE YOU CRAZY?
I'M ALMOST TEMPTED TO INVISIBLY TAG ALONG WITH THEM
BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE A THREE-ALARM FIRE SOMEWHERE IN THE VICINITY!
MY FIRST RESPONSIBILITY AS THE FLASH IS TO THE SAFETY OF CENTRAL CITY!
4

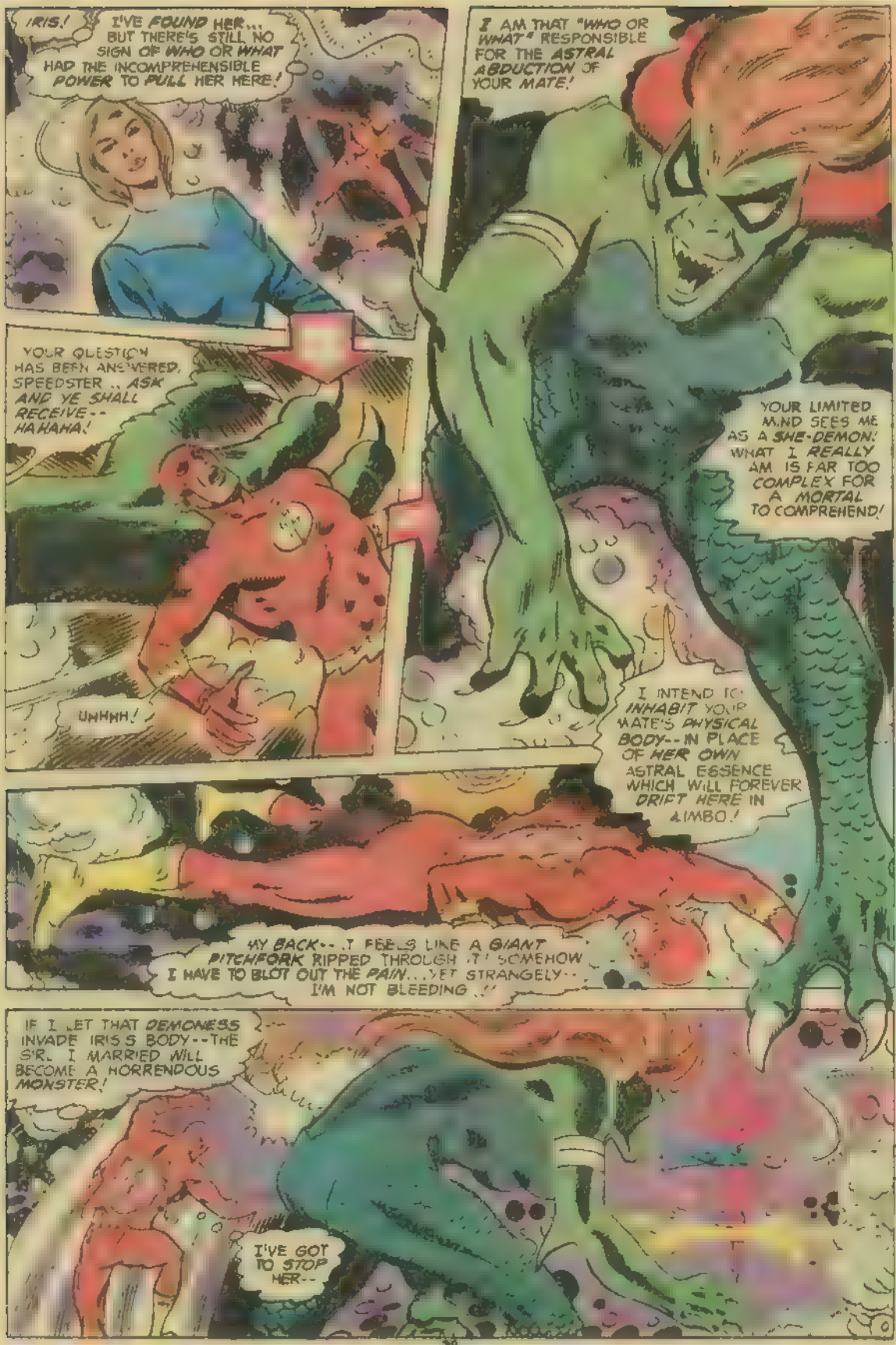
UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S THAT KIND OF THINKING THAT'S BEEN KEEPING ME AWAY FROM IRIS SO MUCH LATELY!
WHAT CAN I DO-- WHEN IT COMES TO SUPER-HEROING I'M COMPULSIVE!
JAKE FORREST! YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT! I'M NOT HERE MORE THAN TWO MINUTES AND YOU'RE ALREADY MAKING A PASS AT ME!
BUT A BED IN THE MIDDLE OF A SCIENTIFIC LAB-- THAT'S A LITTLE MUCH!
DEAR IRIS-- I ASSURE YOU THIS BED IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL TO THE KIND OF WORK I'M DOING HERE--
I'LL BET! NEXT YOU'LL BE TELLING ME IT'S ALL FOR DREAM RESEARCH!
WOULD YOU BELIEVE ASTRAL PROJECTION?
ASTRAL PROJECTION? LIKE WHEN PEOPLE SUPPOSEDLY LEAVE THEIR PHYSICAL BODIES AND DRIFT AROUND LIKE PHANTOMS?
NOT VERY SUCCINCT RIS-- BUT THAT PRETTY WELL SUMS UP THE GENERAL IDEA!
SO WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU WANT TO GIVE IT A TRY?
TRY WHAT-- ASTRAL PROJECTING? YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING!
DON'T LAUGH. YOU MAY HAVE ALREADY PROJECTED HUNDREDS OF TIMES IN YOUR SLEEP WITHOUT REMEMBERING A SINGLE DETAIL!
C'MON WEST-- WHERE'S YOUR SPIRIT OF ADVENTURE?
OR DON'T YOU THINK THAT HUSBAND OF YOURS WOULD LIKE THE IDEA OF YOUR TAKING A NAP IN ANOTHER SCIENTIST'S LAB?

SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
I DON'T BELIEVE IT! TV DINNERS ARE ACTUALLY WORSE NOW THAN THEY WERE IN THE BACHELOR DAYS!
OR MAYBE I'VE JUST BEEN SPOILED BY YEARS OF IRIS'S COOKING!
ALMOST EIGHT-THIRTY-- AND NO SIGN OF HER AT ALL NOT EVEN A PHONE CALL!
I COULD HAVE SPIED ON THE TWO OF THEM AT FORREST'S LAB .. THEN I DECIDED AGAINST IT!
AFTER ALL, IRIS AND I MAY NOT BE ON THE BEST SPEAKING TERMS LATELY. . BUT HOPEFULLY THERE'S NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T STILL TRUST EACH OTHER!
IT'S FUNNY! EVEN THOUGH SHE'S NOT HERE... I CAN'T SEEM TO SHAKE THE FEELING THAT SHE'S STILL AT MY SIDE!
BARRY BARRY
GOOD GOD! IRIS!
BARRY, HELP ME..
HELP ME
IRIS???
WHAT IS THIS .. SHE'S FADING THROUGH MY FINGERS LIKE SMOKE!


COULD IT BE I MISS HER SO MUCH... FOR A SPLIT-SECOND I JUST IMAGINED SHE WAS STANDING IN FRONT OF ME?
OR WAS THAT DESPERATE PLEA FOR HELP SOMEHOW GENUINE?
EITHER WAY--I'VE GOT TO FIND OUT--
--AND FIND OUT FAST!*
* BARRY'S STREET CLOTHES ARE PROTECTED FROM THE HEAT OF SUPER-SPEED FRICTION BY THE INVISIBLE AURA THAT CONTINUALLY ENVELOPS HIS SPEED-CHARGED BODY!
AND AFTER A TERSE BARRY ALLEN HAS INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO A SURPRISED JAKE FORREST...
ASTRAL PROJECTION?
AS YOU CAN SEE IRIS IS ENJOYING A RESTFUL SLEEP--BROUGHT ON BY THE HYPNOTIC TRANCE I ADMINISTERED TO RELAX HER SUBCONSCIOUS!
LAB 405
SHE COULD START TO PROJECT ANY MOMENT NOW!
START TO PROJECT?! FORREST, I SAW IRIS STANDING IN MY LIVING ROOM ONLY A FEW SEC...ER, MINUTES AGO! HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THAT?
INCREDIBLE! I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- I HAD JUST CHECKED MY INSTRUMENTS THE SECOND BEFORE YOU BARGED IN!
7


AS THE BAFFLED SCIENTIST CONSULTS HIS EQUIPMENT ONCE AGAIN
ALLEN YOU'RE RIGHT! ACCORDING TO MY READINGS HER INVISIBLE ASTRAL BODY HAS INDEED LEFT HER SLEEPING PHYSICAL BODY BEHIND!
IRIS'S ASTRAL FORM BECAME VISIBLE TO YOU BECAUSE OF THE STRONG EMOTIONAL BRIDGE BETWEEN MAN AND WIFE!
THIS IS UNCANNY! MY ECTOPLASMIC READOUT OF THE ASTRAL IRIS IS GROWING FAINTER BY THE SECOND!
IT IS ALMOST AS IF SOMETHING IS PULLING HER FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM HER PHYSICAL SELF... AND OUT OF OUR PHYSICAL WORLD ENTIRELY!
ALLEN DID YOU HEAR WHAT I SAID?
YOUR WIFE IS RAPIDLY FADING AWAY--AND I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO BRING HER BACK!!
AS THE POLICE QUESTIONS LIRS REMAIN SILENT AND UNMOVING
...HIS SUPER-SPEED GRADED EYES BEGIN VIBRATING IN THEIR SOCKETS AT AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE RATE!
I'VE READ ENOUGH ON OBE* RESEARCH TO KNOW ABOUT THE SO-CALLED SILVER CORD WHICH CONTINUALLY LINKS THE PHYSICAL BODY WITH THE ASTRAL!
IF I CAN JUST VIBRATE MY VISION TO THE RIGHT FREQUENCY
*OUT OF THE BODY EXPERIENCE
THERE! I CAN SEE IT!
THANK GOD IT'S STILL INTACT! ACCORDING TO MOST OCCULT BOOKS IF THE CORD IS SEVERED THE ASTRAL BODY CAN NEVER RETURN
--AND THE END RESULT IS DEATH!
ALLEN WHERE ARE YOU GOING? COME BACK! THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO OUT THERE
8

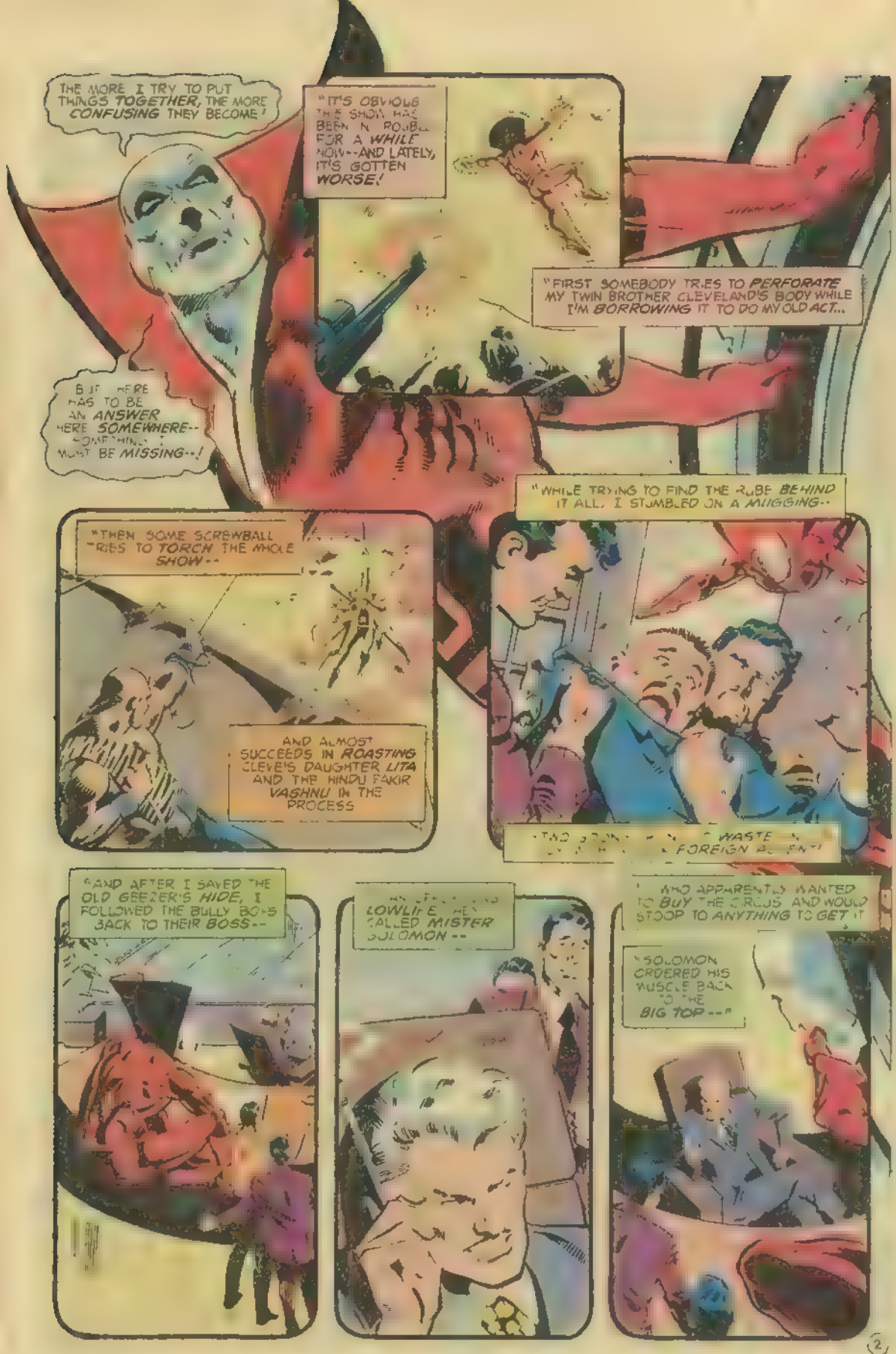
NOTHING BARRY ALLEN CAN DO - BUT WHAT THE FLASH CAN DO REMAINS TO BE SEEN
IT'S OBVIOUS IRIS KNEW SOMETHING WAS SEIZING HER ASTRAL BODY.
..AND SHE WAS ABLE TO RESIST JUST LONG ENOUGH TO PLEAD TO ME FOR HELP!
ALL I CAN DO IS FOLLOW HER ASTRAL LIFE-LINE...
..AND HOPE THAT-- UH OH!
FORREST WAS RIGHT ABOUT ONE THING-- IRIS'S ABDUCTOR HAS PULLED HER CLEAR OUT OF THIS WORLD AND INTO ANOTHER DIMENSIONAL REALM!
AS THE SILVER CORD FADES AWAY--
--SO FADES THE FLASH!
AS LONG AS I KEEP ADJUSTING MY OWN VIBRATORY FLUX WITH THE CONSTANTLY CHANGING FLUX OF THE CORD--
--WHERE IT GOES, I GO!
THE QUESTION IS-- WHERE AM I NOW?
I DON'T THINK I COULD'VE PICKED A MORE UNEARTHLY PLANE OF EXISTENCE IF I TRIED!
I'M COMING, IRIS! I CAN SENSE I'M GETTING CLOSE!

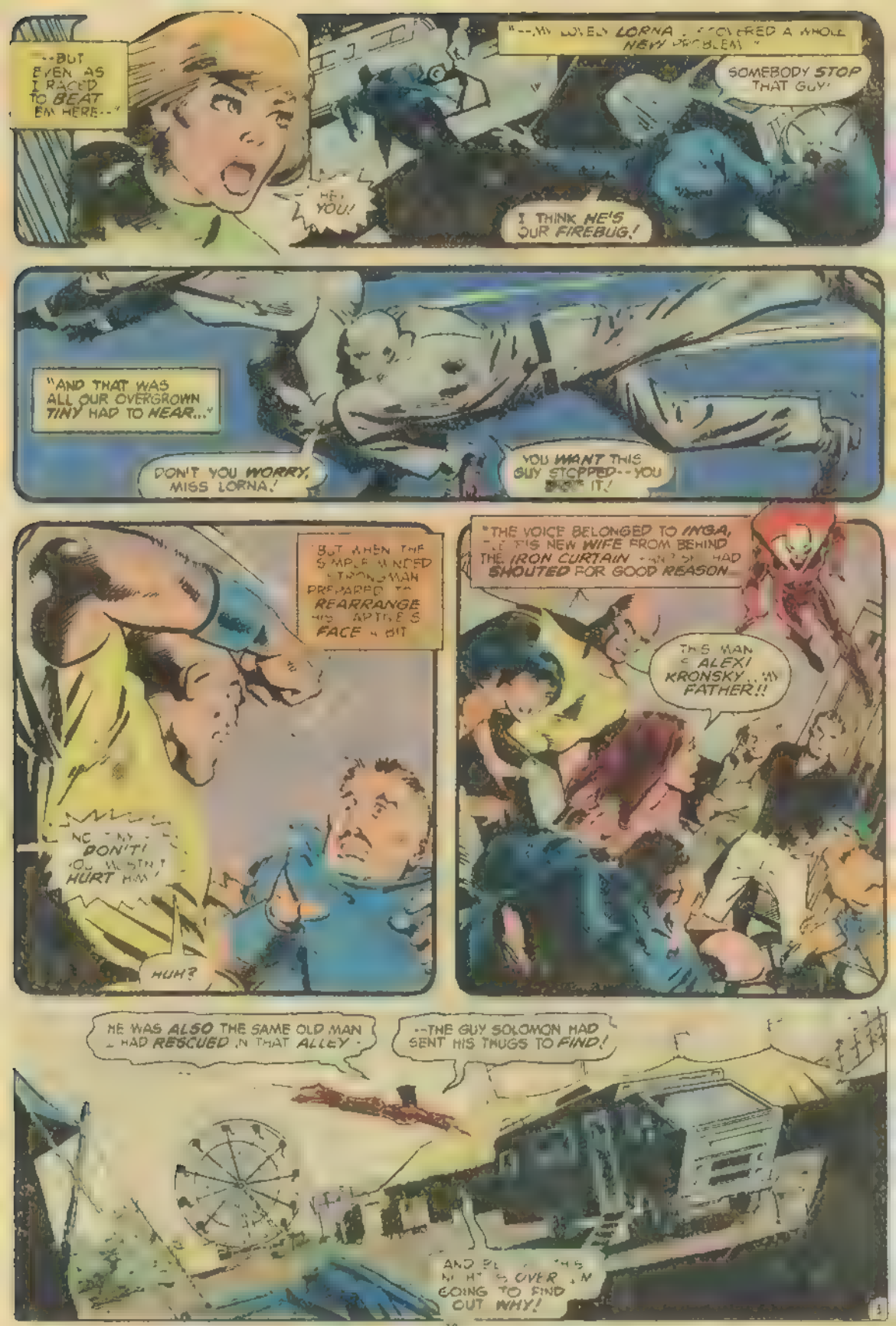

IRIS! I'VE FOUND HER... BUT THERE'S STILL NO SIGN OF WHO OR WHAT HAD THE INCOMPREHENSIBLE POWER TO PULL HER HERE!
I AM THAT "WHO OR WHAT" RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ASTRAL ABDUCTION OF YOUR MATE!
YOUR QUESTION HAS BEEN ANSWERED, SPEEDSTER .. ASK AND YE SHALL RECEIVE-- HAHAHA!
YOUR LIMITED MIND SEES ME AS A SHE-DEMON! WHAT I REALLY AM IS FAR TOO COMPLEX FOR A MORTAL TO COMPREHEND!
UHHHH!
I INTEND TO INHABIT YOUR MATE'S PHYSICAL BODY--IN PLACE OF HER OWN ASTRAL ESSENCE WHICH WILL FOREVER DRIFT HERE IN LIMBO!
MY BACK--IT FEELS LIKE A GIANT PITCHFORK RIPPED THROUGH IT! SOMEHOW I HAVE TO BLOT OUT THE PAIN...YET STRANGELY-- I'M NOT BLEEDING..!!
IF I LET THAT DEMONESS INVADE IRIS'S BODY--THE GIRL I MARRIED WILL BECOME A HORRENDOUS MONSTER!
I'VE GOT TO STOP HER--

--OR SHE'LL TEAR APART IRIS'S ASTRAL CORD! THE DEMONESS HAS TO BREAK IT BEFORE SHE CAN COMPLETELY POSSESS AN EARTHBOUND BODY!
BUT THAT WILL ONLY HAPPEN OVER MY DEAD BODY!
WHAT A PERSISTENT ENTITY YOU ARE, FLASH!
YOUR SUPER-SPEED MAY MAKE YOU A FORMIDABLE THREAT IN YOUR MORTAL REALM, SPEEDSTER--
--BUT HERE IN MY DOMAIN, YOUR PHYSICAL LAWS ARE MEANINGLESS!
I SEE WHAT SHE MEANS! HOW ELSE COULD SOMETHING LIKE THIS BE HAPPENING?
IT SEEMS I UNDERESTIMATED YOUR STAMINA!
NO MATTER--YOU ARE STILL NO MATCH FOR MY DEMONIC MIGHT! EVENTUALLY YOU WILL SUCCUMB!
SHE'S RIGHT! IF I COULD ONLY DISABLE HER LONG ENOUGH TO REACH IRIS!
IRIS!
ONLY ONE WAY FOR US TO ESCAPE, DARLING --AND NOW THAT WE'RE IN ASTRAL CONTACT WITH EACH OTHER IT SHOULD WORK!
I READ YOU LOUD AND CLEAR!

BY RETURNING MY INTERNAL VIBRATIONS TO THEIR ORIGINAL NORMAL FREQUENCY-
-YOUR ASTRAL SELF AND [illegible] SELF WILL REMAIN [illegible]--
--WHILE I MATERIALIZE BACK ON EARTH AND THE CENTRAL CITY COUNTRYSIDE
BARRY! THOSE GAPING WOUNDS IN YOUR BACK HAVE DISAPPEARED!
AND THE PAIN IS GONE TOO! IT MUST MEAN THE POWERS OF THE DEMONESS ARE NULL AND VOID IN OUR PHYSICAL WORLD!
STILL, YOU BRAVED UNBEARABLE PAIN TO COME TO MY RESCUE IN HER REALM! YOU REALLY DO STILL LOVE ME, BARRY ALLEN!
OF COURSE I DO! THE PROBLEMS WE'VE BEEN HAVING LATELY AREN'T BECAUSE OF A LACK OF LOVE...BUT A LACK OF COMMUNICATION!
IF ONLY MY PHYSICAL SELF WOULD BE ABLE TO REMEMBER THIS ASTRAL EPISODE! NO MATTER WHAT I SAY-- I REALLY LOVE YOU, TOO!
AND A FEW MOMENTS LATER.
THERE YOU ARE, ALLEN! GOOD NEWS-- YOUR WIFE'S ASTRAL PROJECTION IS OVER.. AND SHE'S INTACT AGAIN! BUT SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER A THING!
HOPEFULLY IRIS JUST SAID THAT TO THROW OFF FORREST...
BUT ONCE OUTSIDE-- ALONE IN THE NIGHT...
THANKS FOR HUMILIATING ME IN FRONT OF JAKE! HE PROBABLY THINKS YOU FOLLOWED ME TO HIS LAB LIKE SOME PEEPING HUSBAND!
OBVIOUSLY SHE REALLY DOESN'T REMEMBER OUR ASTRAL ENCOUNTER! JUST MY LUCK!
WELCOME BACK TO REALITY, BARRY!

MURDERED BEFORE HIS RIGHTFUL TIME GRANTED THE BIZARRE ABILITY TO POSSESS LIVING BODIES, THE SPIRIT OF CIRCUS AERIALIST BOSTON BRAND LIVES ON, TO STRIKE A BALANCE BETWEEN GOOD AND EVIL AS ..
DEADMAN
THE SINS OF THE FATHER--!
THE WIND HAS GROWN COLD THIS MOONLESS NIGHT, SWEEPING ACROSS THE DARKENED EXPANSE OF THE TRAVELING HILL'S CIRCUS LIKE A STROKE OF SATAN'S SCYTHE!
BUT THE GHASTLY CRIMSON-CLAD FIGURE WHO STANDS POISED OVER THE CAMPGROUND LIKE SOME UNSEEN ANGEL DOES NOT FEEL THE WIND'S BITTER CHILL OR ITS HARSH CUTTING EDGE!
HELPLESS
I'D GIVE FIVE YEARS OF MY DEATH TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE!
AN ADVENTURE INTO UNREAL WITH -
LEN WEIN - WRITER • J.L. GARCIA-LOPEZ & DICK GIORDANO - ARTISTS
GLYNIS WEIN - COLORIST • BEN ODA - LETTERER • PAUL LEVITZ - GUEST EDITOR


THE MORE I TRY TO PUT THINGS TOGETHER, THE MORE CONFUSING THEY BECOME!
"IT'S OBVIOUS THE SHOW HAS BEEN IN TROUBLE FOR A WHILE NOW--AND LATELY, IT'S GOTTEN WORSE!
"FIRST SOMEBODY TRIES TO PERFORATE MY TWIN BROTHER CLEVELAND'S BODY WHILE I'M BORROWING IT TO DO MY OLD ACT...
BUT THERE HAS TO BE AN ANSWER HERE SOMEWHERE--SOMETHING I MUST BE MISSING--!
"WHILE TRYING TO FIND THE RUBE BEHIND IT ALL, I STUMBLED ON A MUGGING--
"THEN SOME SCREWBALL TRIES TO TORCH THE WHOLE SHOW--
AND ALMOST SUCCEEDS IN ROASTING CLEVE'S DAUGHTER LITA AND THE HINDU FAKIR VAGHNU IN THE PROCESS
WASTE
FOREIGN
"AND AFTER I SAVED THE OLD GEEZER'S HIDE, I FOLLOWED THE BULLY BOYS BACK TO THEIR BOSS--
LOWLIFE
CALLED MISTER SOLOMON --
WHO APPARENTLY WANTED TO BUY THE CIRCUS AND WOULD STOOP TO ANYTHING TO GET IT
"SOLOMON ORDERED HIS MUSCLE BACK TO THE BIG TOP--"
2


--BUT EVEN AS I RACED TO BEAT 'EM HERE--
--MY LOVELY LORNA DISCOVERED A WHOLE NEW PROBLEM--
SOMEBODY STOP THAT GUY!
HEY, YOU!
I THINK HE'S OUR FIREBUG!
"AND THAT WAS ALL OUR OVERGROWN TINY HAD TO ENDURE..."
DON'T YOU WORRY, MISS LORNA!
YOU WANT THIS GUY STOPPED--YOU GOT IT!
BUT WHEN THE SIMPLE MINDED STRONG MAN PREPARED TO REARRANGE HIS ATTACKER'S FACE A BIT
NO--NO! DON'T! YOU WON'T HURT HIM!
HUH?
"THE VOICE BELONGED TO INGA, THE NEW WIFE FROM BEHIND THE IRON CURTAIN--AND SHE HAD SHOUTED FOR GOOD REASON
THIS MAN IS ALEXI KRONSKY...MY FATHER!!
HE WAS ALSO THE SAME OLD MAN I HAD RESCUED IN THAT ALLEY!
--THE GUY SOLOMON HAD SENT HIS THUGS TO FIND!
AND I'LL BET THIS MIGHT'S OVER I'M GOING TO FIND OUT WHY!

THIS
PLEASE PAPA--PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER--TRY TO TELL US WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU!
LOOKS LIKE THE [illegible] HERE!
A LONG STORY, [illegible] DAUGHTER
A LONG AND A TERRIBLE STORY!
YOU VANISHED FROM OUR [illegible] MONTHS AGO [illegible] BEEN [illegible] AND WHAT ARE YOU [illegible] HERE NOW?
WELL ANY TIME YOU WANNA TELL IT ACE - WE'RE LISTENING!
"YOU KNOW I SERVED THE MOTHER AND FAITHFULLY, INGA--NEVER QUESTIONING, NEVER COMPLAINING!
FOR YEARS I GAVE OUR HOME AND EVERY THING I HAD - AND SO NOTHING IN RETURN!
"BUT WHEN YOUR BELOVED MOTHER DIED AND [illegible] WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM [illegible] I KNEW I HAD [illegible] ENOUGH!
IN THE DAY, I DID WORK FOR THE STATE AS ORDERED--BUT AT NIGHT I WORKED FOR MYSELF!
I [illegible] MY [illegible] VALUE AND WHEN IT WAS PERFECTED [illegible] AND FLED!
I HAD KEPT TRACK [illegible] SECRET [illegible] TRAVELING CIRCUS [illegible]
ONE NIGHT I [illegible] INTO THIS CIRCUS AND CAREFULLY HID MY PRECIOUS MECHANISM
WHEN [illegible] FRIENDS, I [illegible] THE COUNTRY

I CANNOT DESCRIBE MY JOY AS MY SHIP ENTERED NEW YORK HARBOR -
AND I FIRST BEHELD THE GLORIOUS LADY OF LIBERTY, HER TORCH HELD HIGH, HER FACE PROUD AND AT PEACE..
THIS, I THOUGHT, MUST TRULY BE THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY--
"--WHERE A MAN CAN EARN AS MUCH AS HE IS ABLE!
"EVEN IN OUR COUNTRY I HAD HEARD OF MISTER SOLOMON-- A BUSINESSMAN OF GREAT POWER AND WEALTH!
"ENTHUSIASTICALLY, I OFFERED TO SELL HIM MY INVENTION FOR MANY THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN DOLLARS--
"--AND KEPT PRISONER FOR MANY WEEKS!
I WOULD TELL HIM WHERE MY INVENTION WAS HIDDEN--BUT ALWAYS I REFUSED!
"AT LAST I COULD NOT STAND IT ANY LONGER--

YOUR DEVICE MUST REALLY BE SOMETHING TO WARRANT ALL THAT BOTHER, MR. KRONSKY!
EXACTLY WHAT DOES IT DO, PAPA?
IT IS ENCEPHALOPATHIC TRANSMOGRIFIER, INGA--
--A MACHINE WHICH CAN TRANSFORM THOUGHT INTO SOLID MATTER!
I--WHAT?!?
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! OLD RAMA KUSHNA COULDN'T BE THAT KIND TO ME
I'M PURE THOUGHT A SUBSTANCELESS CONSCIOUSNESS!
I'LL BE ALIVE AGAIN
IF I CAN FIND THAT GIZMO AND USE IT--I CAN WHIP UP A NEW BODY FOR MYSELF.
I'LL BE ALIVE!!
BUT WHERE DID YOU HIDE YOUR DEVICE MR KRONSKY?
NONE OF US HAVE EVER SEEN IT
IT IS NOT LIKELY THAT YOU WOULD, IND LADY! I USED THE POWER OF MY MACHINE TO TRANSFORM ITS APPEARANCE!
IT IS CURRENTLY THE LARGE WOODEN ELEPHANT WHICH HANGS OVER THE MENAGERIE TENT!
THANK YOU MR KRONSKY THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO KNOW!
WHAT IN--?
WHO IN BLAZES ARE YOU?
6

I BELIEVE YOU'VE HEARD OF ME ... NAME'S SOLOMON!
I DON'T CARE IF YOUR NAME IS RUMPELSTILTSKIN!
NOBODY COMES IN HERE UNINVITED--SO GET OUT!
ALL IN GOOD TIME, MISS ...
GUNTHER, WOULD YOU AND RICO KINDLY GO GATHER UP MR KRONSKY'S PRECIOUS ELEPHANT?
ON OUR WAY SIR
BUT IF THESE FREAKS GIVE YOU ANY TROUBLE WHILE WE'RE GONE JUST SHOUT--
--AND WE'LL COME RUNNING!
OH, I WOULDN'T WORRY, GUNTHER
... AND THEIR FRIENDS WILL BE ON THEIR VERY BEST BEHAVIOR--
... IF THEY KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR THEM!
AND ONCE SOLOMON GETS WHAT HE WANTS, HE'LL SIMPLY WASTE 'EM--
... FAST ... PULL OFF THE TOUGHEST STUNT OF MY CAREER!
OKAY YOU GOONS--PUT DOWN THOSE GUNS!
DADDY? WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
FIRST, A QUICK DIVE INTO MY BABY BROTHER CLEVELAND--
7

KEEP THAT FOOL QUIET!
..THEN, WHILE THESE CREEPS ARE DISTRACTED, INTO ..TTLE LITA...
I.. I
WH- WHAT WAS I SAYING?
AND WHEN THEY'RE ALL OFF-BALANCE...
HUH?
EVERYBODY CRAZY HERE?
NO TINY FOR THE GRAND FINALE!
ASSUMING I DON'T GIVE THE BIG GUY A HERNIA IN THE FIRST 3!
WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THAT REFRIGERATOR?
JUST MAKING A POINT, SUCKER
NEXT TIME A LADY TELLS YOU YOU'RE NOT WELCOME SOMEWHERE-
LISTEN TO HER!
KWA-WHOOM!
8

LOOKS LIKE I'VE DONE ALL THAT I CAN DO! LORNA AND THE GANG'LL HAVE TO HANDLE THE REST OF THIS ON THEIR OWN--
--BUT THAT SHOULDN'T BE ANY PROBLEM!
HEY RUBE!
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR BREATH, MISS H--
THAT OLD CARNIVAL CRY CANNOT HELP YOU NOW.
QUITE FRANKLY NOTHING CAN HELP YOU--
KLONK!
--HUH?
YOU CALLED, LORNA HONEY?
SWEET SANITY! IT'S A WHOLE ARMY OF THOSE [illegible]KS!

AND AN ANGRY ARMY AT THAT- PREPARED TO RISK ANYTHING TO PRESERVE THEIR GAUDILY-PAINTED WORLD!
GO GET EM GANG
AND GIVE EM ONE FOR ME!
SPLOOSH!!
THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND!
I'VE GOT TO PUT A STOP TO THIS INSANITY--
AND I MIGHT AS WELL START WITH YOU!
DON'T SWEAT IT, TOBY!
SOLOMON MAY HAVE THE GUNS, BUT YOU'VE GOT YOUR OWN PERSONAL POLTERGEIST ON THE TEAM TO GIVE YOU A HAND--
WHOP!
UUNNHH!
--WHILE I GIVE SOLOMON A BIG FLOPPY FOOT!

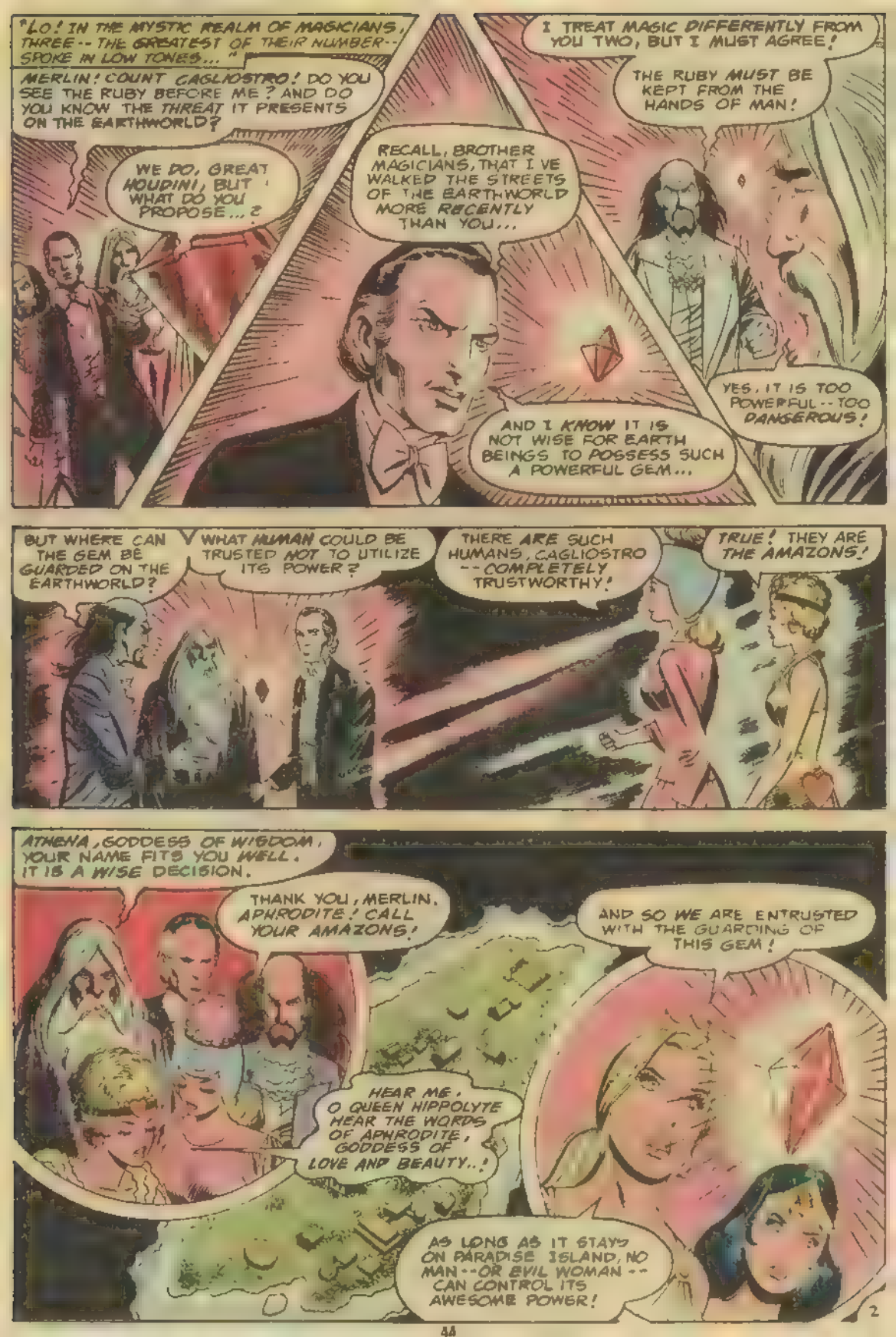
TOBY SHOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE SOLOMON NOW--
WHILE I SEE IF ANYBODY ELSE NEEDS A LITTLE HELP FROM A DEADMAN!
?!
NOPE EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE - CRUMBS!
I'D ALMOST FORGOTTEN ABOUT--
--KRONSKY!
PLEASE - LET ME GO! THE ELEPHANT IS MINE!
NOT ANYMORE, IT AIN'T, PAL!
NOT IF YA WANNA KEEP BREATHIN'!
AND IF YOU DON'T TAKE YOUR SLIMY HANDS OFF, YOU'RE LIABLE TO JOIN ME
BUT AS DEADMAN REACHES FOR HIS PRIZE
AARRG!
THE PAIN... OVERWHELMING.. THE SECOND KRONSKY TOUCHED THAT THING.
TRUTH TO TELL, GUYS--I GAVE UP BREATHING A LONG TIME AGO!
GOTTA GRAB THAT STUPID ELEPHANT-- BEFORE ANYTHING HAPPENS TO IT!
MINE! AT LAST YOU ARE MINE ONCE MORE!

ELEPHANT'S CHANGING AT KRONSKY'S TOUCH ..GROWING SMALLER..
BECOMING
..A HELMET!
NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THE POWER RADIATING FROM THAT GIZMO
ALMOST MORE THAN I CAN BEAR.
BUT I CAN'T QUIT NOW!
GOTTA GET TO KRONSKY... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
YOU MOCKED ME, MISTER SOLOMON YOU HURT ME!
AND NOW YOU ARE GOING TO ANSWER TO ME!
KRONSKY--! HE'S FOUND HIS MACHINE--!
F-EEL SO STRANGE, AS IF I... I..
NO!!
KRONSKY STOP! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO ME!
I'M A POWERFUL MAN!
I CAN MAKE YOU RICH!
I CAN.. MAKE YOU
RICH
YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND, MISTER SOLOMON I DO NOT NEED YOU NOW I DO NOT NEED ANYONE!
I HAVE THE POWER -- AND THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH!!
12

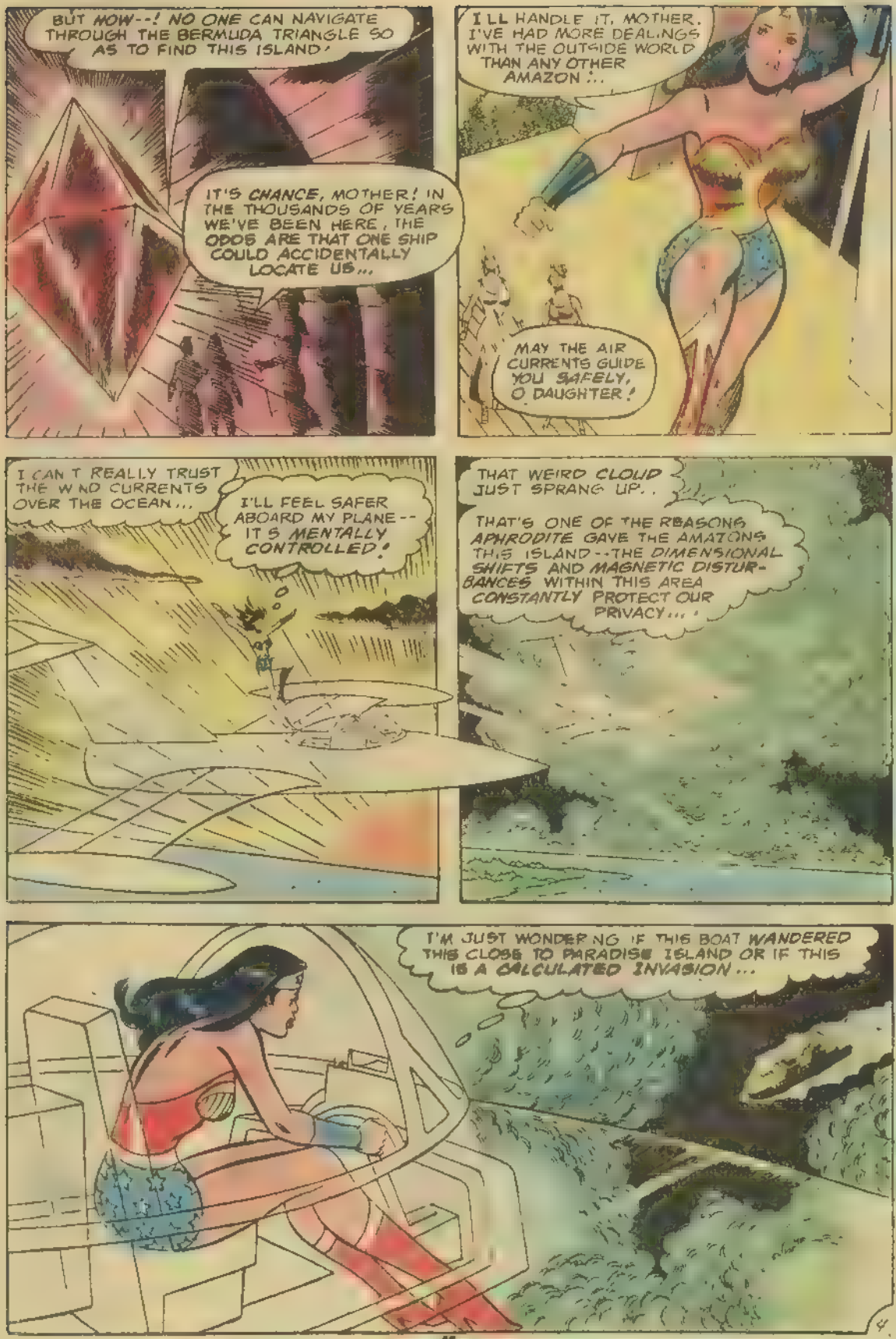
NEXT ISSUE. THE HEART-CLUTCHING CLIMAX OF THE MOST OFF-BEAT DEADMAN THRILLER OF ALL! JOIN US FOR.

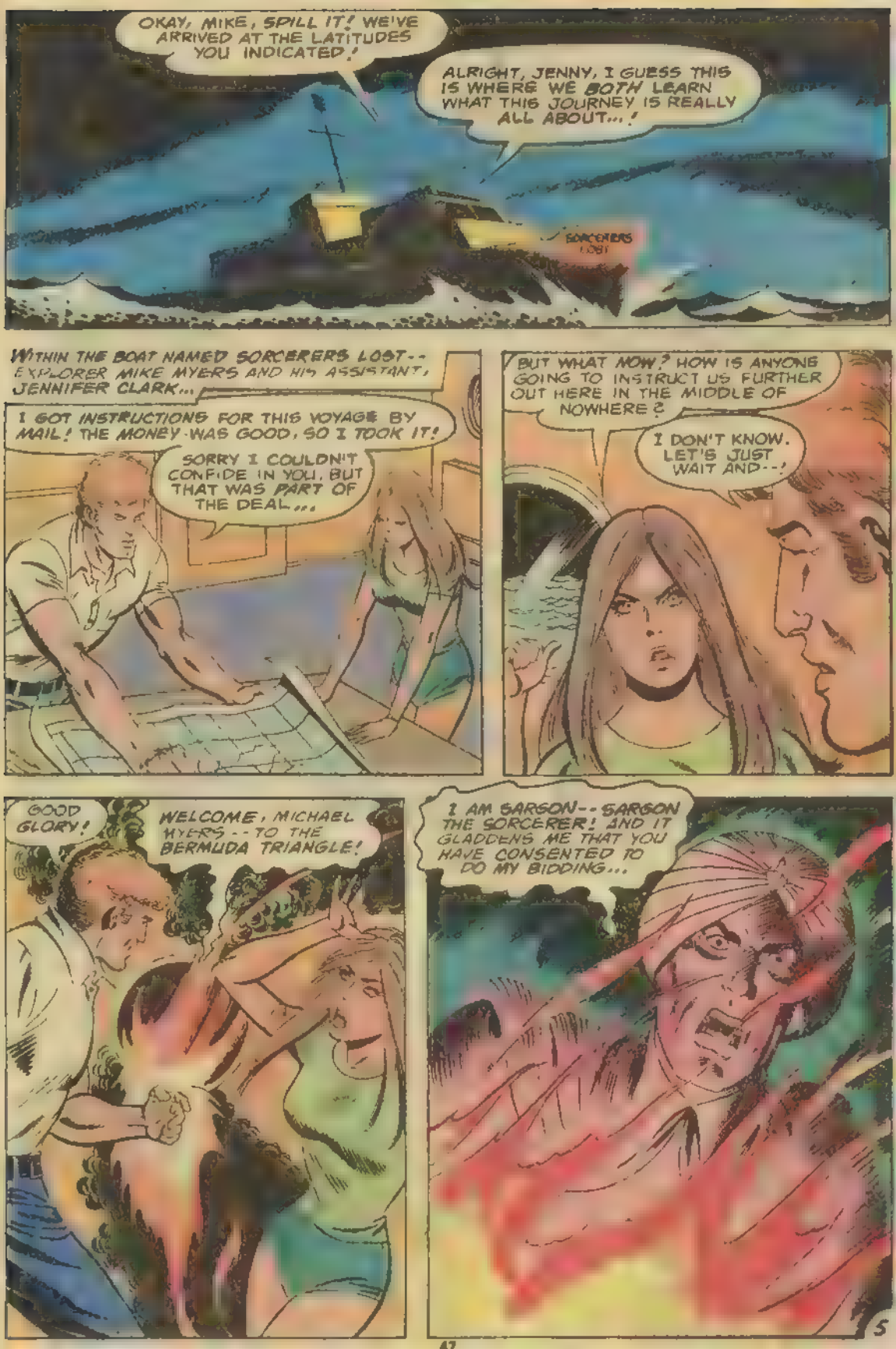
"MIND OVER MURDER!"

GRANTED THE WISDOM OF ATHENA, THE STRENGTH OF HERCULES THE SPEED OF MERCURY AND THE BEAUTY OF APHRODITE BY THE GODS, PRINCESS DIANA OF PARADISE ISLAND RENOUNCED HER IMMORTALITY AND ENTERED MANS WORLD AS THE MOST LEGENDARY AMAZON OF ALL...
Wonder Woman
BEHOLD, DAUGHTER... THE ENCHANTED RUBY OF LEGEND!
IT WAS RECENTLY GIVEN TO THE AMAZONS FOR PROTECTION! GAZE INTO ITS FACETS--SEE HOW, IN A PLACE FAR BEYOND THE WORLD WE KNOW, THREE MYSTICAL BEINGS CONFERRED.
STORY: JACK C HARRIS
ART: JACK ABEL
LETTERING: MILT SNAPINN
COLORING: JERRY SERPE
EDITING: ROSS ANDRU
IN A DARKENED CHAMBER SOMEWHERE ON THE AMAZON'S ENCHANTED PARADISE ISLAND, WONDER WOMAN HEARS THE WORDS THAT WILL SOON SEND HER ON AN ADVENTURE INTO THE SUPERNATURAL!
VOYAGE of the SORCERERS LOST"


"LO! IN THE MYSTIC REALM OF MAGICIANS, THREE -- THE GREATEST OF THEIR NUMBER -- SPOKE IN LOW TONES..."
MERLIN! COUNT CAGLIOSTRO! DO YOU SEE THE RUBY BEFORE ME? AND DO YOU KNOW THE THREAT IT PRESENTS ON THE EARTHWORLD?
WE DO, GREAT HOUDINI, BUT WHAT DO YOU PROPOSE...?
RECALL, BROTHER MAGICIANS, THAT I'VE WALKED THE STREETS OF THE EARTHWORLD MORE RECENTLY THAN YOU...
AND I KNOW IT IS NOT WISE FOR EARTH BEINGS TO POSSESS SUCH A POWERFUL GEM...
I TREAT MAGIC DIFFERENTLY FROM YOU TWO, BUT I MUST AGREE!
THE RUBY MUST BE KEPT FROM THE HANDS OF MAN!
YES, IT IS TOO POWERFUL -- TOO DANGEROUS!
BUT WHERE CAN THE GEM BE GUARDED ON THE EARTHWORLD?
WHAT HUMAN COULD BE TRUSTED NOT TO UTILIZE ITS POWER?
THERE ARE SUCH HUMANS, CAGLIOSTRO -- COMPLETELY TRUSTWORTHY!
TRUE! THEY ARE THE AMAZONS!
ATHENA, GODDESS OF WISDOM, YOUR NAME FITS YOU WELL. IT IS A WISE DECISION.
THANK YOU, MERLIN. APHRODITE! CALL YOUR AMAZONS!
AND SO WE ARE ENTRUSTED WITH THE GUARDING OF THIS GEM!
HEAR ME, O QUEEN HIPPOLYTE HEAR THE WORDS OF APHRODITE, GODDESS OF LOVE AND BEAUTY..!
AS LONG AS IT STAYS ON PARADISE ISLAND, NO MAN -- OR EVIL WOMAN -- CAN CONTROL ITS AWESOME POWER!
2

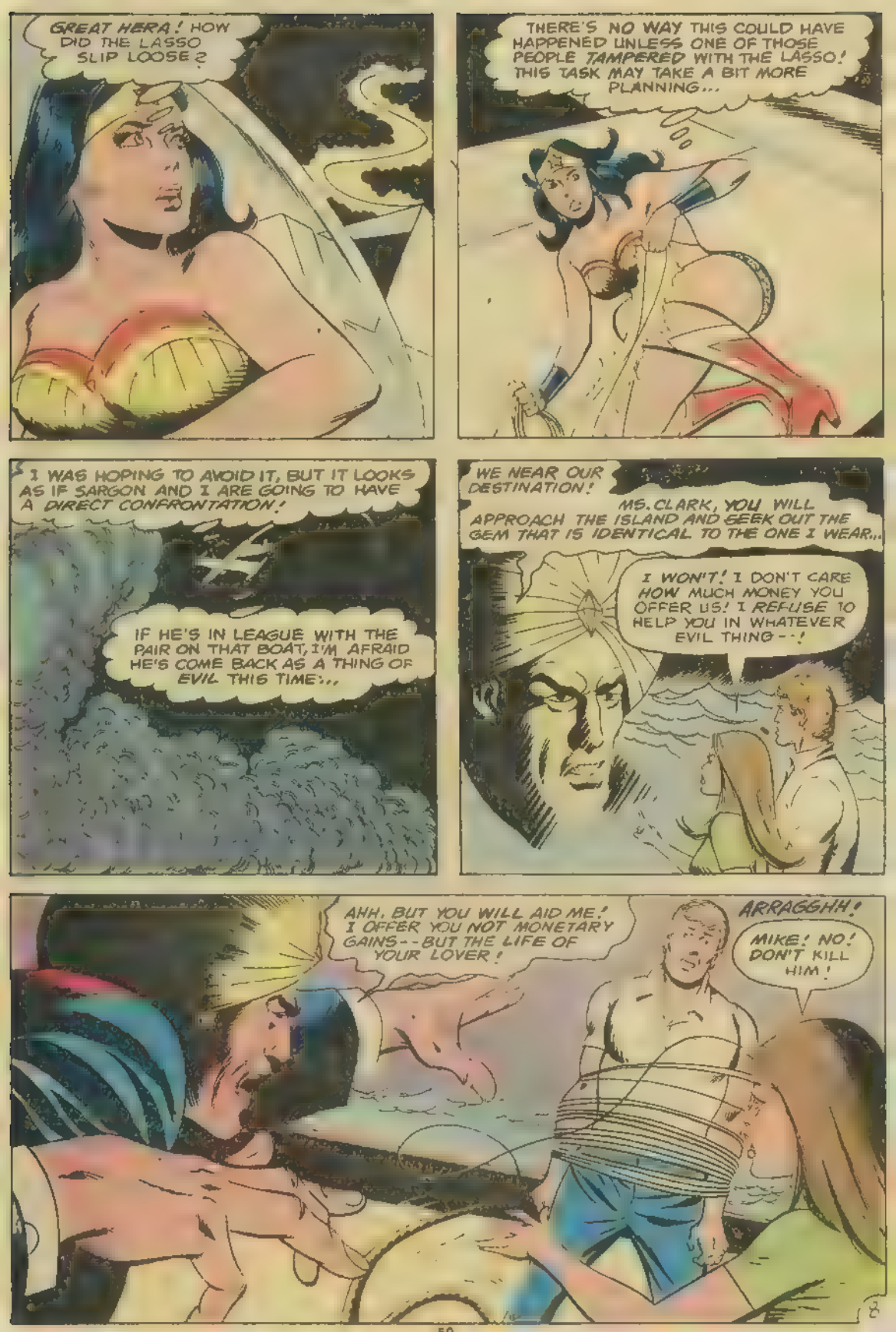
I HAVE SEEN SUCH A GEM BEFORE... SOMEPLACE...
THEN IT WAS THIS GEM YOU SAW--THERE IS ONLY ONE LIKE IT IN ALL EXISTENCE!
MOTHER! I RECALL THIS RUBY WAS ONCE IN THE POSSESSION OF ONE SARGON--THE SORCERER!
THE ORIGIN OF THE GEM WAS UNKNOWN EVEN TO HIM--AND ITS UNUSUAL PROPERTIES CAUSED HIM TO BE BOTH...
THE GEM GAVE HIM THE POWER OVER ALL INANIMATE OBJECTS--AS LONG AS HE TOUCHED THEM!
"...SUPER HERO
"...SUPER-VILLAIN..."
"AND BACK TO SUPER-HERO ONCE AGAIN!"
THE JUSTICE LEAGUE'S LOST TRACK OF SARGON, SO I HAVE NO IDEA HOW HE LOST THE GEM OR HOW IT ENDED UP IN THE MYSTIC REALM...
IT IS SAFE HERE AND THERE'S NO WORRY ABOUT SARGON OR ANYONE RETRIEVING IT--!
MY QUEEN! A BOAT FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD APPROACHES!


BUT NOW--! NO ONE CAN NAVIGATE THROUGH THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE SO AS TO FIND THIS ISLAND!
IT'S CHANCE, MOTHER! IN THE THOUSANDS OF YEARS WE'VE BEEN HERE, THE ODDS ARE THAT ONE SHIP COULD ACCIDENTALLY LOCATE US...
I'LL HANDLE IT, MOTHER. I'VE HAD MORE DEALINGS WITH THE OUTSIDE WORLD THAN ANY OTHER AMAZON...
MAY THE AIR CURRENTS GUIDE YOU SAFELY, O DAUGHTER!
I CAN'T REALLY TRUST THE WIND CURRENTS OVER THE OCEAN...
I'LL FEEL SAFER ABOARD MY PLANE-- IT'S MENTALLY CONTROLLED!
THAT WEIRD CLOUD JUST SPRANG UP..
THAT'S ONE OF THE REASONS APHRODITE GAVE THE AMAZONS THIS ISLAND--THE DIMENSIONAL SHIFTS AND MAGNETIC DISTURBANCES WITHIN THIS AREA CONSTANTLY PROTECT OUR PRIVACY...
I'M JUST WONDERING IF THIS BOAT WANDERED THIS CLOSE TO PARADISE ISLAND OR IF THIS IS A CALCULATED INVASION...

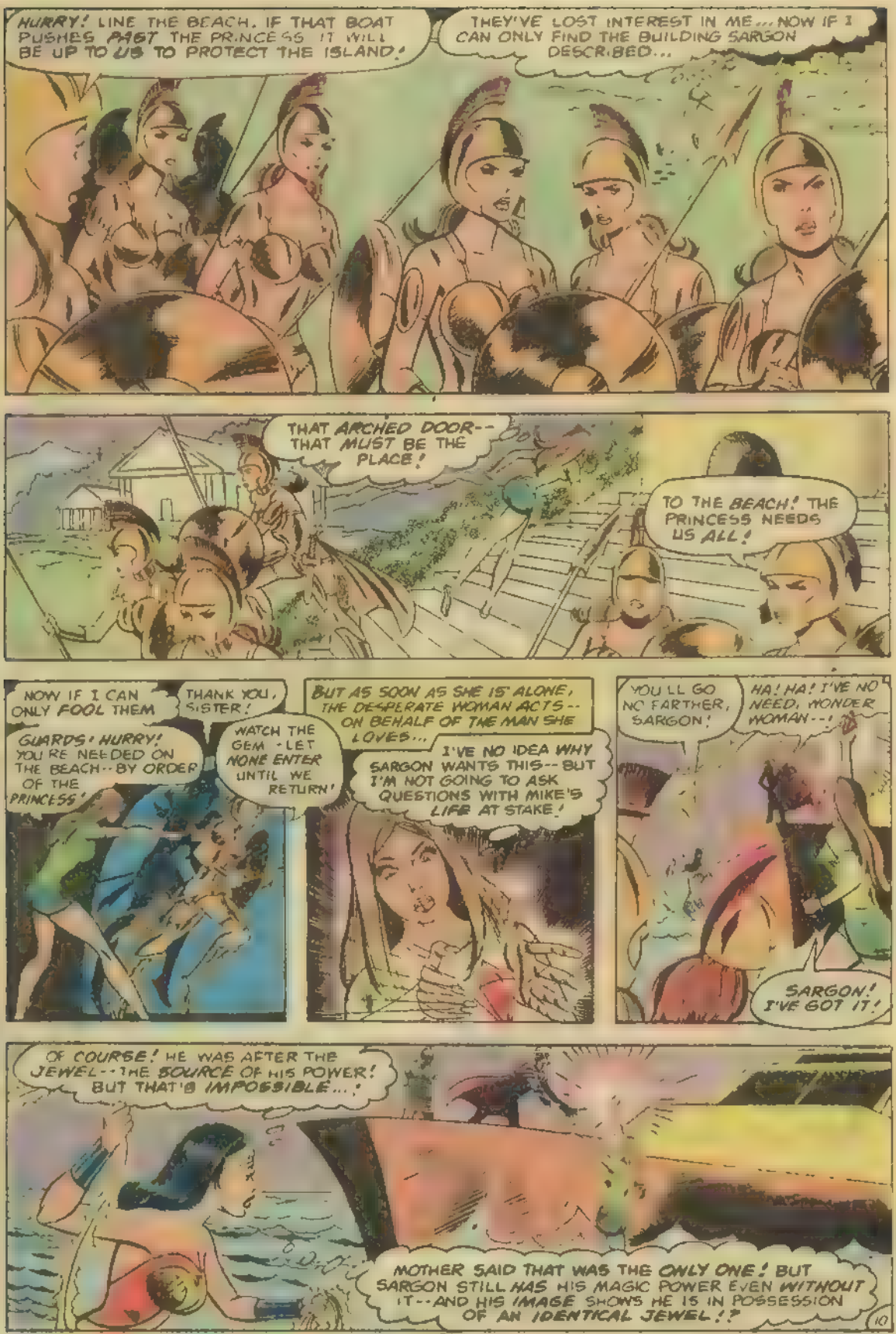

OKAY, MIKE, SPILL IT! WE'VE ARRIVED AT THE LATITUDES YOU INDICATED!
ALRIGHT, JENNY, I GUESS THIS IS WHERE WE BOTH LEARN WHAT THIS JOURNEY IS REALLY ALL ABOUT...!
SORCERERS LOST
WITHIN THE BOAT NAMED SORCERERS LOST-- EXPLORER MIKE MYERS AND HIS ASSISTANT, JENNIFER CLARK...
I GOT INSTRUCTIONS FOR THIS VOYAGE BY MAIL! THE MONEY WAS GOOD, SO I TOOK IT!
SORRY I COULDN'T CONFIDE IN YOU, BUT THAT WAS PART OF THE DEAL...
BUT WHAT NOW? HOW IS ANYONE GOING TO INSTRUCT US FURTHER OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE?
I DON'T KNOW. LET'S JUST WAIT AND--!
GOOD GLORY!
WELCOME, MICHAEL MYERS -- TO THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE!
I AM SARSON -- SARSON THE SORCERER! AND IT GLADDENS ME THAT YOU HAVE CONSENTED TO DO MY BIDDING...
5

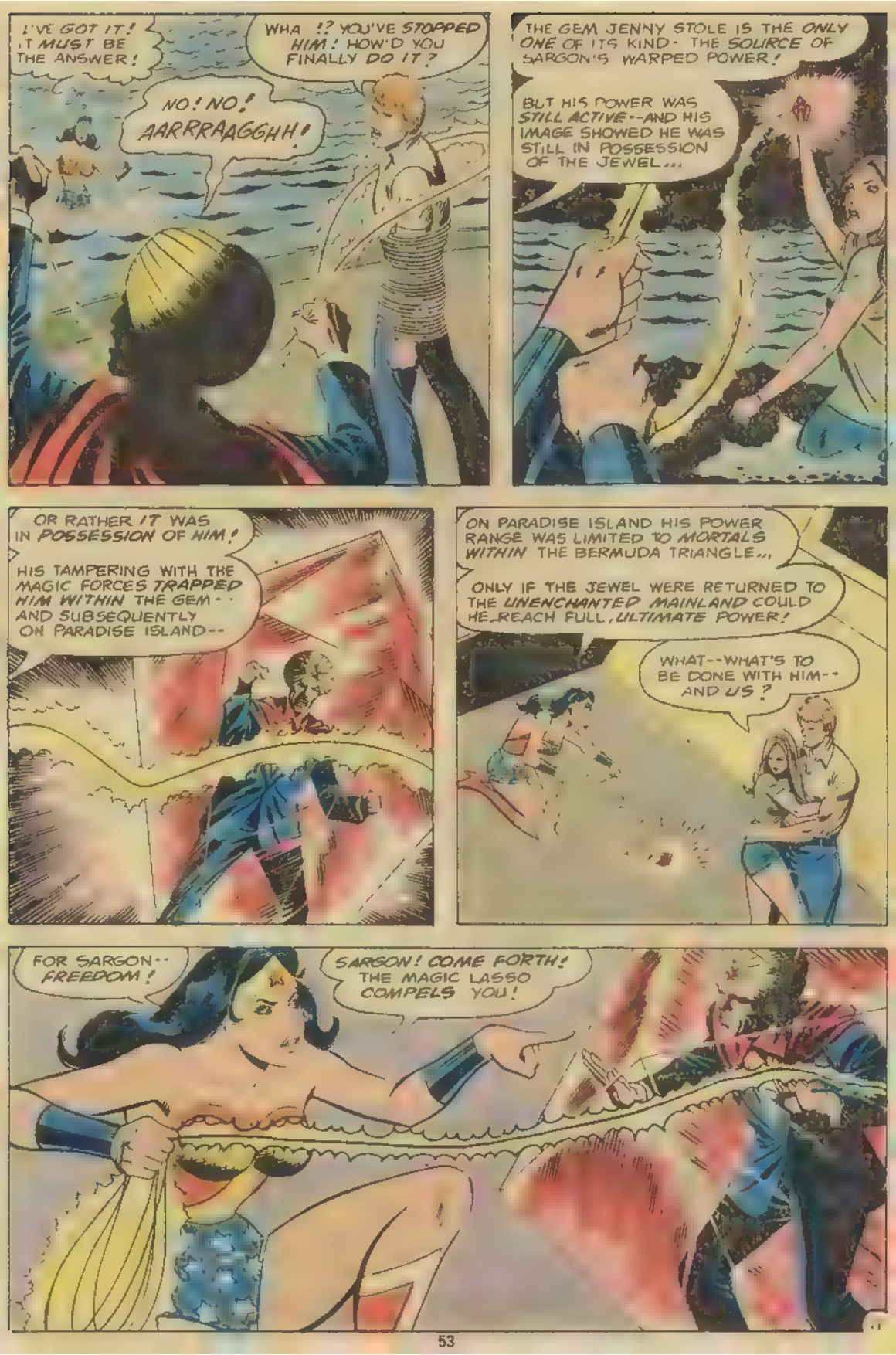
BECAUSE OF REASONS I CANNOT DISCLOSE I NEED YOU TO OBTAIN A CERTAIN OBJECT FOR ME--A BAUBLE THAT CAN, ONCE IN MY POSSESSION, ALLOW ME TO MAKE YOU WEALTHY!
I DON'T BELIEVE ALL OF THIS! IT'S SOME KIND OF TRICKERY!
TRICKERY? INDEED! BUT PERHAPS ALL WILL BECOME CLEARER--
--ON DECK!
GOOD GLORY!
MIKE! HE--HE REALLY IS A SORCERER!
SORCERERS LOST
ON AN ISLAND TWENTY-FIVE MILES SOUTHEAST OF THIS LOCATION, THERE LIES A RUBY--IT IS IDENTICAL TO THE ONE YOU SEE ME WEARING RIGHT NOW!
OBTAIN THAT RUBY, RETURN IT TO THE MAINLAND AND RICHES BEYOND COMPARE WILL BE YOURS!
MIKE, DON'T TRUST HIM. HE HE'S EVIL!
YEAH, MAYBE. BUT IF HE CAN PULL OFF THE STUNTS HE'S BEEN DOING, I'M WILLING TO TAKE SOME RISKS.!
YOU HAVEN'T MUCH TIME. THE TASK MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE THREE DAYS HAVE PASSED AND--
YO! NOT YOU!
SARGON!

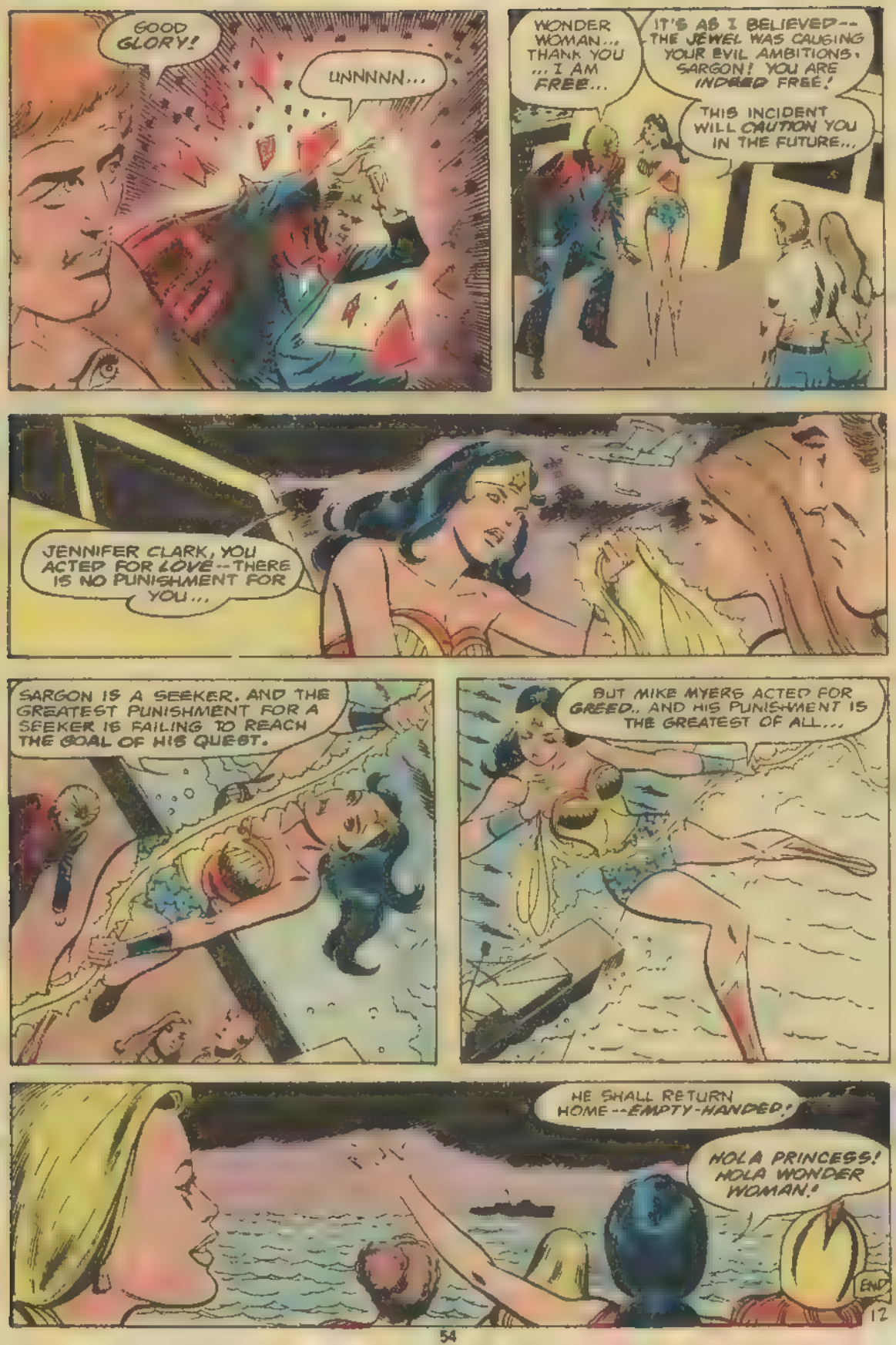
FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT IS ABOUT TO TRANSPIRE--
--BUT THIS WOMAN MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO INTERFERE!
WONDER WOMAN!
JENNY! LET'S GET BELOW!
KKKOOOOOOOOOOOO!
SHE'S SAVING US--AND YOU WANTED HER TO DROWN!
NO! NO--THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT WAS!
SHE'S..SHE'S TOWING US AWAY FROM WHERE WE WANT TO GO!
SHE'S RESCUING US! WE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO RIDE OUT THIS STORM!
THIS LASSO IS SUPPOSEDLY MAGICAL, BUT IF I CAN JUST PULL IT... OVER THE STERN...
MIKE! STOP! YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING!
DID IT! SHE WASN'T HOLDING ON TO THE ROPE--WASN'T GIVING IT DIRECT ORDERS!
YOU FOOL! YOU'VE JUST MURDERED US BOTH!


GREAT HERA! HOW DID THE LASSO SLIP LOOSE?
THERE'S NO WAY THIS COULD HAVE HAPPENED UNLESS ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE TAMPERED WITH THE LASSO! THIS TASK MAY TAKE A BIT MORE PLANNING...
I WAS HOPING TO AVOID IT, BUT IT LOOKS AS IF SARGON AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE A DIRECT CONFRONTATION!
IF HE'S IN LEAGUE WITH THE PAIR ON THAT BOAT, I'M AFRAID HE'S COME BACK AS A THING OF EVIL THIS TIME...
WE NEAR OUR DESTINATION!
MS. CLARK, YOU WILL APPROACH THE ISLAND AND SEEK OUT THE GEM THAT IS IDENTICAL TO THE ONE I WEAR...
I WON'T! I DON'T CARE HOW MUCH MONEY YOU OFFER US! I REFUSE TO HELP YOU IN WHATEVER EVIL THING--!
AHH, BUT YOU WILL AID ME! I OFFER YOU NOT MONETARY GAINS--BUT THE LIFE OF YOUR LOVER!
ARRAGGHH!
MIKE! NO! DON'T KILL HIM!

SARGON! I ORDER YOU BY THE LAW OF APHRODITE--
FOOLISH FEMALE! YOU HAVE NO POWER OVER ME!
TURN THIS BOAT AROUND--LEAVE THESE WATERS!
I WOULDN'T WANT TO TEST THAT CLAIM, SARGON --BUT I CAN STAND UP TO THIS BOAT!
NOW, GIRL, NOW! IF YOU WANT YOUR MAN TO LIVE!
BY THE TWELVE LABORS OF HERCULES, YOU'LL GO NO FARTHER!
HA! HA! HOW CAN YOU HOPE TO HARM ONE WHO IS NOT HERE AT ALL!
GIVE IT UP, WONDER WOMAN. WE WILL SOON SET FOOT UPON YOUR PRECIOUS ISLAND--
--AND YOUR POWER--AND THE POWER OF ALL AMAZONS WILL BE NEGATED!
ATHENA GRANT ME THE WISDOM TO SEE HIS WEAK POINT!
SISTER! WHAT TAKES PLACE?
MUST... REMEMBER WHAT SARGON TOLD ME... TO SAY...
THAT BOAT! IT CARRIES MEN TO PARADISE ISLAND... AND WONDER WOMAN IS POWERLESS TO HALT IT!
MEN!? ON PARADISE ISLAND? CALL THE STAND-BY GUARDS!
9

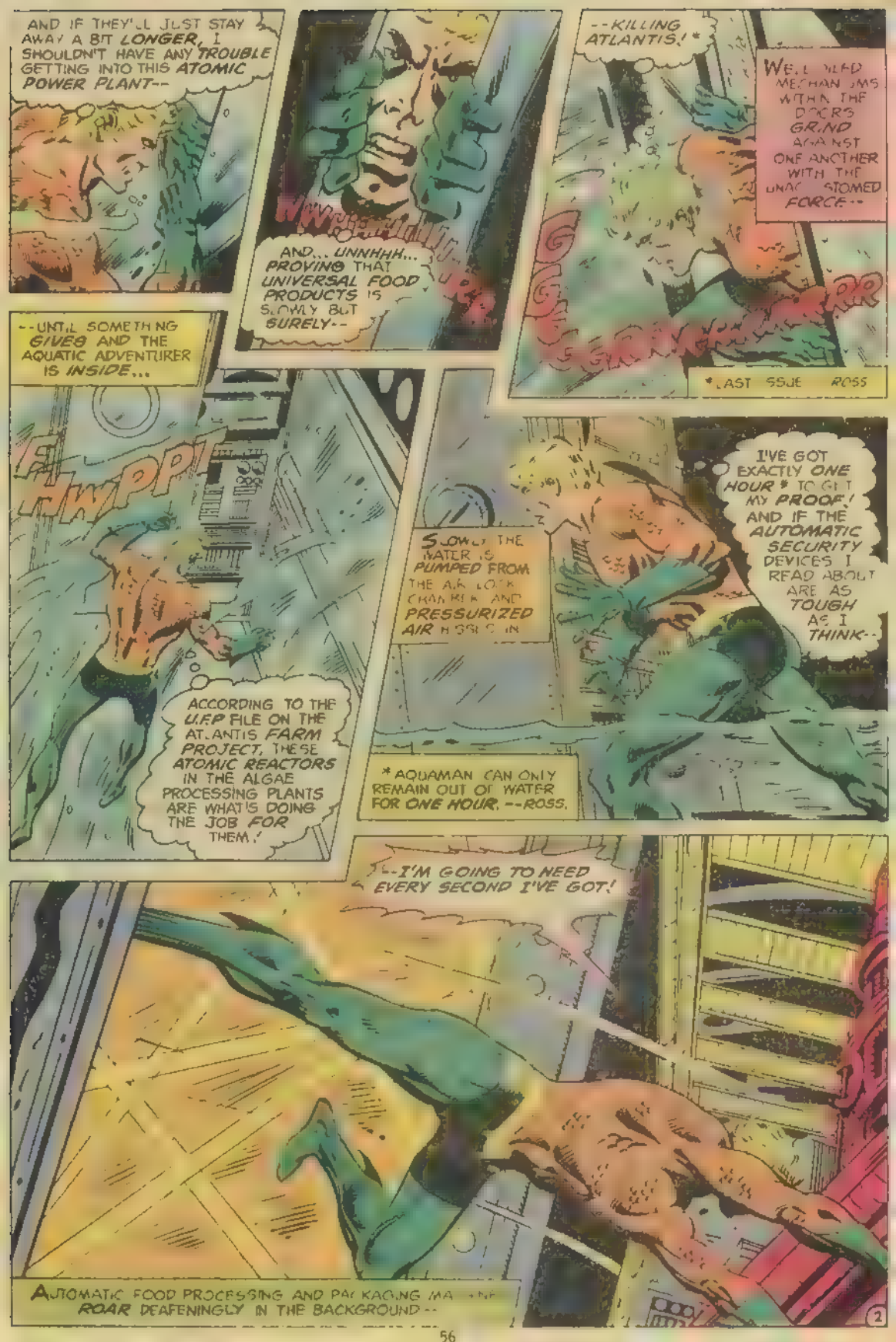

HURRY! LINE THE BEACH. IF THAT BOAT PUSHES PAST THE PRINCESS IT WILL BE UP TO US TO PROTECT THE ISLAND!
THEY'VE LOST INTEREST IN ME... NOW IF I CAN ONLY FIND THE BUILDING SARGON DESCRIBED...
THAT ARCHED DOOR-- THAT MUST BE THE PLACE!
TO THE BEACH! THE PRINCESS NEEDS US ALL!
NOW IF I CAN ONLY FOOL THEM
THANK YOU, SISTER!
GUARDS! HURRY! YOU'RE NEEDED ON THE BEACH--BY ORDER OF THE PRINCESS!
WATCH THE GEM - LET NONE ENTER UNTIL WE RETURN!
BUT AS SOON AS SHE IS ALONE, THE DESPERATE WOMAN ACTS -- ON BEHALF OF THE MAN SHE LOVES...
I'VE NO IDEA WHY SARGON WANTS THIS-- BUT I'M NOT GOING TO ASK QUESTIONS WITH MIKE'S LIFE AT STAKE!
YOU'LL GO NO FARTHER, SARGON!
HA! HA! I'VE NO NEED, WONDER WOMAN--!
SARGON! I'VE GOT IT!
OF COURSE! HE WAS AFTER THE JEWEL--THE SOURCE OF HIS POWER! BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...!
MOTHER SAID THAT WAS THE ONLY ONE! BUT SARGON STILL HAS HIS MAGIC POWER EVEN WITHOUT IT--AND HIS IMAGE SHOWS HE IS IN POSSESSION OF AN IDENTICAL JEWEL!?
10


I'VE GOT IT! IT MUST BE THE ANSWER!
WHA !? YOU'VE STOPPED HIM! HOW'D YOU FINALLY DO IT?
NO! NO! AARRRAGGHH!
THE GEM JENNY STOLE IS THE ONLY ONE OF ITS KIND - THE SOURCE OF SARGON'S WARPED POWER!
BUT HIS POWER WAS STILL ACTIVE--AND HIS IMAGE SHOWED HE WAS STILL IN POSSESSION OF THE JEWEL...
OR RATHER IT WAS IN POSSESSION OF HIM!
HIS TAMPERING WITH THE MAGIC FORCES TRAPPED HIM WITHIN THE GEM - - AND SUBSEQUENTLY ON PARADISE ISLAND--
ON PARADISE ISLAND HIS POWER RANGE WAS LIMITED TO MORTALS WITHIN THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE...
ONLY IF THE JEWEL WERE RETURNED TO THE UNENCHANTED MAINLAND COULD HE REACH FULL, ULTIMATE POWER!
WHAT--WHAT'S TO BE DONE WITH HIM-- AND US?
FOR SARGON-- FREEDOM!
SARGON! COME FORTH! THE MAGIC LASSO COMPELS YOU!


GOOD GLORY!
UNNNNN...
WONDER WOMAN... THANK YOU ...I AM FREE...
IT'S AS I BELIEVED-- THE JEWEL WAS CAUGING YOUR EVIL AMBITIONS, SARGON! YOU ARE INDEED FREE!
THIS INCIDENT WILL CAUTION YOU IN THE FUTURE...
JENNIFER CLARK, YOU ACTED FOR LOVE--THERE IS NO PUNISHMENT FOR YOU...
SARGON IS A SEEKER. AND THE GREATEST PUNISHMENT FOR A SEEKER IS FAILING TO REACH THE GOAL OF HIS QUEST.
BUT MIKE MYERS ACTED FOR GREED.. AND HIS PUNISHMENT IS THE GREATEST OF ALL...
HE SHALL RETURN HOME--EMPTY-HANDED!
HOLA PRINCESS! HOLA WONDER WOMAN!
END
12

HE WAS BORN ARTHUR CURRY, HALF-BREED SON OF MAN AND MERMAID, AND ROSE TO BECOME RULER OF THE MIGHTY SEA KINGDOM OF ATLANTIS. EVENTUALLY HE RELINQUISHED THAT THRONE, CHOOSING INSTEAD TO REMAIN THE DAUNTLESS DEFENDER OF ALL THE SEVEN SEAS -- THE VALIANT SUPER-HERO CALLED...
AQUAMAN
CAUTION ATOMIC GENERATOR
FIELDS OF GREEN ALGAE LAY SILENT IN THE ATLANTEAN NIGHT AT THE OCEAN'S FLOOR, DISTURBED ONLY SLIGHTLY BY THIS MAN'S PRESENCE.
BUT IT IS A DISTURBANCE AQUAMAN TAKES NO NOTICE OF FOR THE ONCE-KING OF ATLANTIS IS LOST IN A TUMULT OF THE MIND--
--ONE THAT CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED WHEN THE LEGENDARY KINGDOM HE ONCE RULED IS SAFE FROM A THREAT FROM THE SURFACE...
NO GUARDS AROUND. GOOD!
EXECUTIVE ACTION!

PAUL KUPPERBERG — WRITER
DON HECK — PENCILLER
BOB SMITH — INKER
BEN ODA — LETTERER
GENE D'ANGELO — COLORIST
ROSS ANDRU — EDITOR


AND IF THEY'LL JUST STAY AWAY A BIT LONGER, I SHOULDN'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE GETTING INTO THIS ATOMIC POWER PLANT--
AND... UNNHHH... PROVING THAT UNIVERSAL FOOD PRODUCTS IS SLOWLY BUT SURELY--
--KILLING ATLANTIS!*
WELL-OILED MECHANISMS WITH THE DOORS GRIND AGAINST ONE ANOTHER WITH THE UNACCUSTOMED FORCE--
*LAST ISSUE ROSS
--UNTIL SOMETHING GIVES AND THE AQUATIC ADVENTURER IS INSIDE...
FWPPP!
ACCORDING TO THE U.F.P FILE ON THE ATLANTIS FARM PROJECT, THESE ATOMIC REACTORS IN THE ALGAE PROCESSING PLANTS ARE WHAT'S DOING THE JOB FOR THEM!
SLOWLY THE WATER IS PUMPED FROM THE AIR LOCK CHAMBER AND PRESSURIZED AIR HISSES IN
I'VE GOT EXACTLY ONE HOUR* TO GET MY PROOF! AND IF THE AUTOMATIC SECURITY DEVICES I READ ABOUT ARE AS TOUGH AS I THINK--
*AQUAMAN CAN ONLY REMAIN OUT OF WATER FOR ONE HOUR. --ROSS.
--I'M GOING TO NEED EVERY SECOND I'VE GOT!
AUTOMATIC FOOD PROCESSING AND PACKAGING MACHINERY ROAR DEAFENINGLY IN THE BACKGROUND--
2

--MORE THAN LOUD ENOUGH TO COVER UP THE SOUNDS OF DANGER--
BUT NOT THE SLIGHT DISTURBANCE OF AIR CAUSES...
HUH!?
THANKFULLY...
FUMPPH!
UGH! NO WONDER THIS PLACE IS FULLY AUTOMATED --NOBODY COULD STAND THE NOISE!
KAWHAMP!
SINCE HEARING IS USELESS IN HERE, THE ONLY SENSE I CAN RELY ON TO SPOT A TRAP IS--
--SIGHT... WHO--!?
KA
KAW
CORRECTION WHAT!
I DOUBT YOU FELLOWS ARE FROM THE LOCAL WELCOME WAGON--
KAWH
--SO LET'S GET THE ROUGH STUFF OVER WITH--
--QUICK!
KAWHAMP

I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN STAND ALL THE NOISE IN HERE--
--AND THESE OVERGROWN TIN-CANS CAN TEAR ME APART WITHOUT HEATING UP A TRANSISTOR IF I GAVE THEM HALF A CHANCE!
KAWHA-MP!
KAWHA
SO I GUESS THE TRICK--
--IS NOT TO GIVE THEM ANY CHANCE AT ALL!
SCRUNCH
TIME SWIFTLY PASSES AS THE SEA KING SEARCHES THE UNDERSEA BUNKER, UNTIL...
TRAK
NEVER THOUGHT I'D FIND THE CONTROL ROOM! MY HOURS ALMOST UP, AND THE PROOF I NEED TO CONVINCE VULKO IS HERE!
AND SO...
BLAZES...
UNIVERSAL FOOD'S FILE DIDN'T EVEN BEGIN TO TELL THE WHOLE STORY
THESE ATOMIC REACTORS ARE TURNING THE AREA AROUND ATLANTIS INTO A BOILING HELL!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE, AQUAMAN--
4

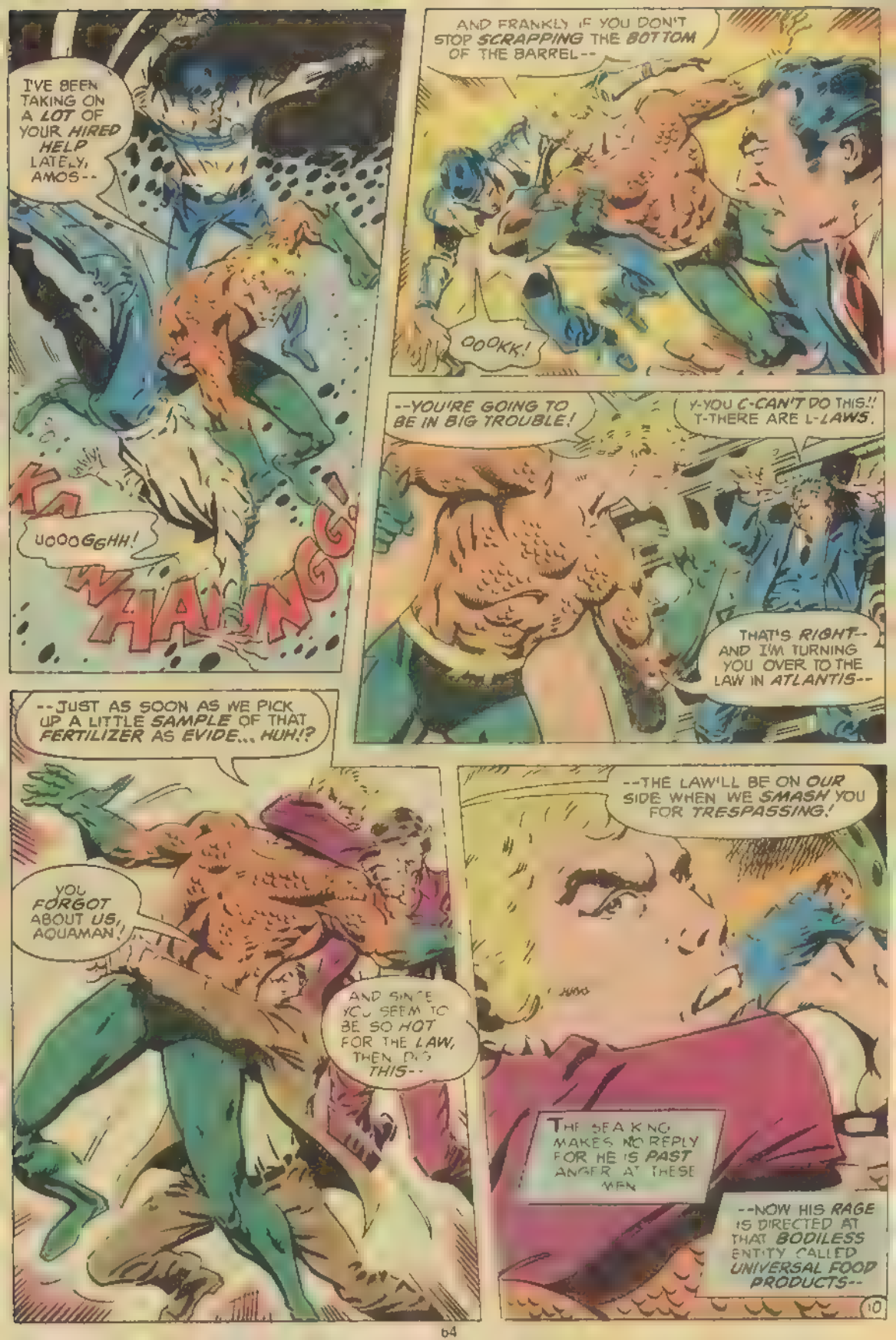
--ESPECIALLY IF YOU CAN'T GET IN WITHOUT TRIPPING EVERY ALARM IN THE PLACE
GUARDS! BUT I THOUGHT THE POWER-PLANTS WERE FULLY AUTOMATED!
THEY WERE, AQUAMAN - UNTIL YOU STARTED SNOOPING AROUND!
WE WERE WARNED TO WATCH FOR YOU... JUST IN CASE YOU DECIDED TO INDULGE IN A LITTLE MORE BREAKING AND ENTERING AGAINST U.F.P. PROPERTY!
NOW IF YOU'LL COME WITH US...
LIKE HELL I WILL!
OOOFFF!
UGH!
WITHOUT WARNING, AQUAMAN WHIRLS, CATCHING HIS CAPTORS MOMENTARILY OFF GUARD
--EVER PRESSING HIS SUDDEN ADVANTAGE IN THE CONFINES OF THE CONTROL CENTER
UNNNH!
BANG!
HOW LONG THE DARKNESS HAD BEEN UPON HIM AQUAMAN DOES NOT KNOW...AS CONSCIOUSNESS AT LAST RETURNS TO HIS FOGGED MIND.
...OOOHHH... WHERE...?
5

IN ATLANTIS, AQUAMAN BROUGHT HERE, I MIGHT ADD, BY TWO VERY DISTURBED GUARDS! THEY TELL US YOU WERE TRESPASSING... AGAIN!
B-BUT THEY SHOT ME! WHAT...?
A TRANQUILIZER DART, HUSBAND--
--THOUGH I DOUBT THEY WOULD'VE HESITATED IN USING BULLETS WERE IT NOT FOR THE RISK OF PUNCTURING THE PRESSURIZED CHAMBER!
PERHAPS WITH GOOD REASON, MERA.
AQUAMAN, YOU'VE ALL READY COST UNIVERSAL FOODS-- AND ATLANTIS-- MUCH TIME AND TROUBLE! U.F.P. IS OUR PARTNER IN THIS VENTURE-- WHETHER OR NOT YOU AGREE!
ANY QUESTIONS?
NO NO QUESTIONS, VULKO-- JUST A COUPLE OF ANSWERS! YOUR "PARTNER'S" ATOMIC REACTORS ARE HEATING THE WATER AROUND ATLANTIS, VULKO—
AND VERY SOON NOW, THIS WHOLE AREA IS GOING TO BE UNLIVABLE!
WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM, VULKO! THEY LIED TO...
THERE WERE NO LIES, AQUAMAN! IN FACT UNIVERSAL FOOD TOLD US ABOUT THAT ..DIFFICULTY BEFORE WE ENTERED INT...
WHAT!?!
6

ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND, VULKO? YOU KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING AND YOU STILL LET THEM GO AHEAD WITH IT?
IT'S NOT AN INSOLVABLE PROBLEM, AQUAMAN! BOTH OUR SCIENTISTS AND THEIRS ARE WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK TO CORRECT IT!
ANYTHING YOU DO TO COOL THE AREA WILL SIMPLY PRODUCE ITS OWN HEAT! IT'S A VICIOUS CYCLE -- UNLESS YOU STOP IT NOW!
WE'VE BEEN THROUGH THIS BEFORE, AQUAMAN: AND WE ALL KNOW THIS THING WON'T BE SOLVED BY ARGUING!
YOU'RE RIGHT! YELLING WON'T DO A THING--
--BUT SOME ACTION WILL!
LATER
PUP!
KRAK!
7

...BEFORE, JUDD, I WANT THAT PROPERTY!
YESSIR, MR AMOS!
AMOS! HE'S THE HEAD OF THIS OUTFIT!
NOW, WHAT'S THE STATUS ON THAT NEW FERTILIZER? UW-XX7, THEY CALL IT?
WELL, SIR, THE SCIENTISTS TELL US THAT THEY'RE STILL UNABLE TO LOWER THE EXCESS OF..
IN ENGLISH, BOY!
ER..UW-XX7 STILL HAS A FEW BUGS IN IT, SIR! IF WE CONTINUE TO USE IT AT THE PRESENT RATE, THESE FARMLANDS WILL BECOME WASTELANDS WITHIN A YEAR--
--ITS SOIL TOTALLY DEPLETED!
A YEAR, HUH? BY THAT TIME, WE'LL KNOW HOW TO DO THIS UNDERWATER FARMING OURSELVES--
--AND ATLANTIS WILL BE ON ITS OWN!
NEPTUNE'S TRIDENT! I FIGURED SOMETHING ELSE WAS GOING ON--THAT U.F.P. GAVE VULKO A SMALL TRUTH TO LEAD THEM AWAY FROM THE BIG LIE--
--BUT I NEVER EXPECTED SOMETHING SO..FOUL!
AMOS! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!
WHO THE DEV...? AQUAMAN ...HERE!?
THAT'S RIGHT, AMOS--AND WE'VE GOT LOTS TO TALK ABOUT! YOU START!
YOU MAKING BREAKING AND ENTERING YOUR HOBBY, AQUAMAN? BY MY COUNT THIS IS YOUR THIRD TIME AROUND!
STICK TO THE POINT!

OH THAT IS THE POINT, AQUAMAN! THREE TIMES AND YOU'RE OUT!
MAYBE YOU THINK I'M GOING TO STAND HERE WHILE YOU DESTROY OUR PRIME FARMLAND--
HANDLE IT, BOYS
--BUT, MISTER, YOU'RE WRONG!
Y-YOU'RE...HURTING ME!
THAT'S TOUGH, AMOS BUT TALK DOESN'T SEEM TO DO MUCH GOOD WITH YOU--AND IF IT TAKES FORCE TO MAKE YOU LISTEN--
--THEN I CAN PRODUCE PLENTY!
AND SO CAN WE, AQUAMAN! GET YOUR PAWS OFF THE BOSS!
HUH!?
HE SAID, HANDS OFF MR. AMOS CREEP. UNLESS YOU WANNA HAVE TO TANGLE WITH US!
OKAY..HE'S BEEN LET GO--
--AND TANGLING WITH THE LIKES OF YOU--
OOOFFF!
--WILL BE A REAL--
HEY!
--PLEASURE!
9


I'VE BEEN TAKING ON A LOT OF YOUR HIRED HELP LATELY, AMOS--
KA
UOOOGGHH!
WHAANGG!
AND FRANKLY IF YOU DON'T STOP SCRAPPING THE BOTTOM OF THE BARREL--
OOOKK!
--YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN BIG TROUBLE!
Y-YOU C-CAN'T DO THIS!! T-THERE ARE L-LAWS.
THAT'S RIGHT-- AND I'M TURNING YOU OVER TO THE LAW IN ATLANTIS--
--JUST AS SOON AS WE PICK UP A LITTLE SAMPLE OF THAT FERTILIZER AS EVIDE... HUH!?
YOU FORGOT ABOUT US, AQUAMAN!
AND SINCE YOU SEEM TO BE SO HOT FOR THE LAW, THEN DIG THIS--
--THE LAW'LL BE ON OUR SIDE WHEN WE SMASH YOU FOR TRESPASSING!
THE SEA KING MAKES NO REPLY FOR HE IS PAST ANGER AT THESE MEN
--NOW HIS RAGE IS DIRECTED AT THAT BODILESS ENTITY CALLED UNIVERSAL FOOD PRODUCTS--
10

--AND THE ONLY THING HE CAN STRIKE OUT AGAINST IS PROPERTY!
TELEPATHIC WAVES OF COMMAND RADIATE FROM AQUAMAN'S FURROWED BROW -- COMMANDS WHICH ARE ANSWERED IN MOMENTS--
HEY! WHAT'S THAT ALAR-- UNNGH!
IT MEANS YOUR SUB'S ENGINES ARE HEATING UP BECAUSE YOUR COOLING SYSTEMS ARE CLOGGED--
ROOOOAAAAR
AAARR
ROOAA
ONCE AGAIN PURE TELEPATHIC COMMANDS RADIATE INTO THE SURROUNDING SEAS TO BRING FORTH AQUATIC AID...
--BUT, MISTER, YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING YET!
WHUMP
KLANGG
KRUNCH
11

THAT OUGHT TO CONVINCE AMOS THAT I'M THROUGH PLAYING GAMES!
NOW IF I CAN ONLY BE AS CONVINCING WITH--
-- VULKO!
I FINALLY HAVE MY PROOF, OLD FRIEND! UNIVERSAL FOODS IS USING A SOIL-DEPLETING FERTILIZER THAT'S...
NEPTUNE'S BEARD, AQUAMAN--
--DO YOU THINK ME A FOOL? WHEN WILL YOU REALIZE THAT U.F.P. IS OUR PARTNER ... OUR FRIEND!
DESTROYING US ISN'T TO THEIR BENEFIT! THERE'S NO PROFIT IN IT.
DON'T YOU SEE, VULKO--
--ONCE THEY LEARN OUR FARMING TECHNIQUES, ATLANTIS BECOMES EXPENDABLE!
THERE'S SO MUCH PRIME LAND ON THE OCEAN FLOOR THAT EVEN IF THEY DESTROY THOUSANDS OF MILES WHILE THEY PERFECT THEIR FERTILIZER, THEY'LL HARDLY HAVE TOUCHED A FRACTION!
RIDICULOUS!
AND SO IS YOUR BEHAVIOR, AQUAMAN! I MUST INSIST YOU STOP THIS FOOLISH CRUSADE-- OR BE PREPARED TO SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES!
I CAN'T DROP IT, VULKO! THE CONSEQUENCES TO ATLANTIS COULD BE DISASTROUS!
I GAVE YOU A CHANCE, AQUAMAN ... BUT NOW I'M AFRAID YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE--
--BUT TO PLACE YOU UNDER ARREST!
GUARDS!
12

NEXT ISSUE: FINALE!

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Editor,

My compliments on your first issue of the dollar-size ADVENTURE. The no-ads, best material available format of this book should make it very successful. I would like to offer a few suggestions, however.

First, cut the excessive amount of words off the cover and give us some dynamic artwork. The logo is very visual, but the heroes with no backgrounds are flat and two-dimensional.

Second, don't drop GL from your cast of characters. Aquaman belongs as a back-up in ACTION COMICS, replacing the ridiculous Air Wave. Keep this book stacked with solid characters.

Third, with the freedom of 64 pages give us inside splash pages and many spectacular special effects. The New Gods story was a good beginning.

Finally, resist the temptation to combine everyone in a book-length story unless a situation really warrants such a presentation. Contrived team-ups such as the Flash and GL could easily fit into a 20-page format.

One last note. Bates wrote one of his most polished, uncluttered Flash stories in this issue. The GL solo story was excellent and shows that he is a viable character both in ADVENTURE and in his own mag. The incomparable Deadman series looks very promising. Good luck to "the most exciting comic of the decade" and may it stay that way.

Mike Oslance
1359 Brandywine
St. Charles, MO 63301

Aquaman has indeed replaced GL in ADVENTURE, but we feel that both characters are equally viable. It's just that GL has his own monthly magazine, and Aquaman has only this feature to call his own.

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

The new dollar-sized *Adventure Comics* has great potential. Except for the Green Lantern tale, all the stories were written well. The characters you assembled to feature in *Adventure* all deserve it as they have tended to be under-exposed in the past years. The only problem I can foresee is that character and plot development cannot take place since each story only has a limited amount of pages to work with. A really good plot just cannot be handled properly in eleven or so pages. The only character that can possibly survive in that format is the Elongated Man, but he is not a regular feature in this book. My suggestion is to drop one character, by all means Green Lantern since he tends to be boring in solo adventures.

The only other thing I have to say is to add Aquaman to this magazine, and drop the New Gods as soon as the current storyline is finished. Gerry Conway's story in this issue was interesting, but I've never really gotten into the New Gods and I doubt I ever will. I feel Aquaman is a better character than any of the New Gods, and I also feel that he has more drawing appeal than them. Please think over this suggestion.

Bill Thelin
632 Robin Glen Dr.
Glendale, Calif. 91202

We think it's possible to do good stories in any page length, and certainly in twelve pages (the shortest length of any story in this issue, for example). Let us know if you don't think that subsequent issues of ADVENTURE have borne that claim out.

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CREDITS: I favour at least writer and artist credits on the inside front cover. I only buy a few comics by CHARACTER alone (one of these is The Batman). It'd just save me time and energy to see all the credits up front instead of having to thumb through the mag.

THE CRIMSON COMETS OF FALLVILLE HIGH: a good story, although I doubt any man on the run from the mob would be "sentimental" enough to go to a highschool reunion.

MURDER HAUNTS THE MIDWAY: I liked this one. Deadman's tortured misery reminds me of that other cancelled cult classic, The Silver Surfer. It must be the white face and that "you can't go home again" attitude, cause two more different beings I can't conceive of. I'll stick around for more of this, you bet!

THE CALL OF THE COSMOS: another nice little tale. I confess I was surprised—I'd expected the luscious lady to be yet another energy leech, but the truth was MUCH more satisfying. This story had that homey, innocent quality I've always associated with DC Comics—and Joe Staton's pleasing art was a bonus as well. Now this is probably entirely off the wall, but I formed an instant emphatic bond with that spotted alien woman and. . .well, I think she should join the Green Lantern Corps!!! How about it, folks? I'll be looking for her in TALES OF THE GREEN LANTERN CORPS in GL/GA. Don't disappoint me!

CLIMAX OF CHAOS: sorry, this one left me as cold as all the rest of the New Gods stories have (with notable exception of the late lamented MR. MIRACLE, which I bitterly miss)—but I admire the completist instincts which prompted the conclusion of the series after the cancellation of its own title. For this reason alone, you may consider that I enjoyed the piece.

THE CASE OF THE FORTUNE COOKIE FORTUNE: a plumb bizarre little number. The Jethro Pagoda?! Wha? There's one problem, however—if Benny Maxwell Jackson "borrowed" his bankroll from the BANK, why did he return it to 30 random people in a RESTAURANT?

THE SHARK'S DARK DEMAND: a competent, if slightly predictable effort. I do object to the fact that the blurb stated that Wonder Woman's wisdom, speed and beauty came from "The Gods"—get your story straight, will you? Half the time it's The Goddess and half the time it's The Gods—duplication seems to be a constant thorn in the side of W.W.'s continuity—two Steves, two Earths and at LEAST two origins. Let's just settle for one of each, please. In case you are counting, allow me to cast my votes for Steve Trevor, Earth One and The Goddess, in that order.

SUGGESTION: if you want to convince the readers that ADVENTURE prints more than just "slush pile" stories, you ought to run a poll on who should appear in the rotating "backup" slots. I would like to suggest a two-part Ragman story. He was an interesting character who never got a fair shake and I'd like to see more of him, particularly as scripted by Len Wein, who has a talent for moody heroes.

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Pardon our mild sexism, but we felt that "The Gods" was appropriate in the same fashion that "Mankind" still includes womankind. Technically both collective nouns include all the members of the group, regardless of sex. And for the record, the specific gods who gave Diana her powers were indeed goddesses, of course.

FLASH ENCOUNTERS THE SHE-DEMON ON THE ASTRAL PLANE
A HELMET IS THE KEY TO A NEW BODY FOR DEADMAN
AQUAMAN BATTLES THE SERVO-MECHS
CAN WONDER WOMAN DEFEAT THE CHILLING POWER OF SARGON THE SORCERER?